

SATURDAY REVIEW

POLITICS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 2,605 Vol. 100.

30 September 1905.

6d.

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NOTICE.—The weekly articles on *Bridge* will be resumed in the issue for 7 October, and will appear weekly thenceforth. We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications: and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The new Agreement between Great Britain and Japan signed at S. James' on 12 August was issued as a Parliamentary paper on Tuesday. The two countries bind themselves to come to each other's aid, should either be attacked in Eastern Asia or India. It is a ten-year agreement. It lays grave emphasis on the wholly peaceful object of all the articles. Thus beyond question the relations between Great Britain and Japan in the Far East have been made much more intimate than they were through the 1902 Agreement. The word India brings this change about far more than the substitution of a single-Power provision in the Far East for the two-Power provision which the first Agreement made. We think of the defence of India almost as we think of the defence of the mother country.

Mr. Birrell in a speech the other day said he was informed that the general election would be in November. We take Mr. Birrell very seriously in literature—he moves with rare distinction here—but we do not think that Mr. Balfour, Sir Alexander Acland Hood and Mr. Wells would give him, Liberal wire-puller, early authentic information as to their election plans. November, however, is not a bad idea. It appears that some of the Liberals are uneasy lest the Government should go to the country on the Anglo-Japanese Treaty with the cry "Every vote given for a Liberal is a vote given against Japan". But we do not think they need fear this. Liberal leaders and rank and file alike have safeguarded against such danger by declaring themselves throughout pro-Japanese.

Ought not the Government, if they go to the country almost at once, whilst the interest in this treaty is hot, to score? The treaty sets Great Britain at the front of Powers. Without expenditure of blood or treasure,

she once more dominates—with Japan—in a part of the world out of which, not long ago, it looked as if she were to be elbowed, even thrust neck and crop. Withal, Pax Britannica is quite a fair boast to-day—for if America pose as the maker of peace, Great Britain can pose as its keeper. These things, surely, might appeal to the voter? Yet we share the doubts of Conservative M.P.'s and organisers whether the brilliant foreign policy success of the Government will bring in the votes it ought. It seems all to be taken so for granted in the country. In the general complacency of classes and parties, there seems no particular disposition to exalt Lord Lansdowne, the Prime Minister and their colleagues. This is quite wrong from an electioneering and party point of view. What is being done in this matter? Is anything being done? A genius in electioneering would have completed by now his arrangements for a perfect pageant on some Peace with Honour lines.

The whole Empire seems suddenly to have awakened to the significance of the arbitration proceedings at Singapore. A good deal of speculation, some of it not too well inspired, has been started by the decision of the local government to acquire the property of the Tanjong Pagar Company. The facts are explained in another column. The imperial and commercial interests which centre in Singapore are much too great to be left longer to private control, and the wonder is not that the Government have moved now but that they did not move long since, when the docks could have been acquired on more favourable terms. The arbitrators have no easy task and it will not be at all surprising if Sir Michael Hicks-Beach is called upon to give his decision as umpire. Singapore is not a newly discovered naval base, but its importance has been increased rather than diminished by recent events.

Norway and Sweden after ten days' tension agreed to refer their differences on all save vital points to arbitration. There is of course ample room for divergence of opinion as to questions affecting the integrity and national interests of either country, but so far as immediate issues are concerned they are prepared to accept the decision of The Hague tribunal. A neutral zone is to be established in perpetuity between the two within which neither fortifications nor warlike operations are

ever to be allowed. With regard to the ancient fortresses, as to which the delegates at Karlstad were at one time seriously divided, Frederiksten is to be controlled by a commission of three foreign officers, and Kongsvinger is not to be strengthened beyond its present limits. Both sides seem fairly well satisfied with the arrangement, though no doubt it will be sharply criticised in the Riksdag and the Storting to which it must be submitted. If the Riksdag shares the view attributed to King Oscar the separation will be agreed to with an ill grace. He has not attempted to disguise his sense of the injustice inflicted upon him by Norway, with the result that the Norwegians will probably now decide in favour of a republican rather than a monarchical régime.

Great hopes had been founded on the meeting of the Hungarian Coalition leaders with the Emperor Francis Joseph which took place last Saturday. It seemed probable that the Emperor, presented again with the situation which arose in January on the defeat of Count Tisza by the Coalition, who refused then to take office, might be wearied of the conflict and accept them as ministers on their own terms. Baron Fejervary's short-lived régime had failed, and it might appear useless labour to set up another ministry only to be knocked down thoroughly by the victorious majority. If the delegates who met the Emperor were contemplating success on such a forecast they have been rudely disillusioned.

So far from the Emperor weakening on the issue which the Hungarian Nationalists have raised, he laid down conditions which place him in irreconcilable antagonism to their pretensions. The military questions, in so far as they affect the language of command and of service, are to be eliminated from the programme. The bases of the union are to remain untouched both as regards the army and the foreign representatives; and any revision of commercial relations between Austria and Hungary is not to be entered upon between the Crown and the Hungarian nation alone, but to be effected only by a compromise between the two States subject to the royal sanction.

The curt and peremptory manner in which these communications were made appeared as if designed to startle the delegates into consciousness of the perilous path into which they are leading the Hungarian nation. It was a stroke of bold policy whose wisdom may be questioned; but, until further time has elapsed for its effects to be seen, it is permissible to believe that the Emperor is the best possible judge of the mode in which his attitude towards the agitation should be defined. For the moment he has added fuel to the flames, and the feelings that have been aroused in Hungary, judging from the utterances since the delegates returned, threaten the creation of a situation very like that which has resulted in the separation of Sweden and Norway. If the finale were the same, the equilibrium of the Austrian Empire would be upset and with it the equilibrium of Europe. This is the importance of the crisis to all Europeans, whatever their sympathies with Hungary in her grievances against Austria; and as to this it is easier to profess sympathy than to possess knowledge.

A settlement of the Morocco question, which, as one Paris paper happily put it, had "continued to be imminent" for several days was arrived at on Tuesday. So little has really been known of the course of the negotiations between M. Revoil and Dr. Rosen that various more or less fantastic stories got about. M. Witte was said to have received instructions from the Tsar to mediate between France and Germany, and Germany was stated to have prolonged the proceedings in the hope that she would succeed in driving a wedge into the Anglo-French entente. This sinister design existed apparently only in the brains of the foreign correspondents. As a matter of fact it would seem that the negotiators have been so successful in achieving a mutually satisfactory arrangement that a perfect understanding between France and Germany now exists. Germany has safeguarded Morocco from incorporation by the Republic, and France has secured all that is

necessary for the protection of Algeria and of her interests in Morocco. The heads of the agreement have been forwarded to Fez and it is understood that Algéciras will be chosen as the meeting place of the conference.

Herr Bebel and the German Socialists declared in conference at Jena that an attack is being meditated by the "dominant" classes on the right of workmen to exercise the voting powers they now possess. Naturally there must be a simultaneous reaction in other quarters when the Socialists can boast that the whole foreign policy of Germany must be directed according to their ideas; but at present they are more flourishing than ever. Their coming parliamentary campaign against the Government's foreign and agrarian policy will be invigorated by the successes of their candidates at the by-election at Essen, where the Emperor made the famous speech to the Krupp workmen denouncing the social democracy. They have polled an enormously increased vote, and they may win the seat on the second ballot between their candidates and the clericals. The fears they express indeed seem rather to be intended to point their threats. Herr Bebel referred to events in Russia and exclaimed that, if matters had come to such a pass in Russia where the workmen were unorganised, what might not happen in Germany where whole battalions and even regiments consist of social democrats!

An engineering feat of considerable danger and much interest was successfully accomplished in the Suez Canal on Thursday. Some three weeks ago the steamer "Chatham", laden with ninety odd tons of dynamite and blasting gelatine caught fire and to avoid a great disaster was sunk towards the Mediterranean end of the Canal. The deadly explosive could not of course be left there. To attempt to remove it by means of divers was a risk which the Canal authorities would not permit to be run. They decided that the "Chatham" must be sacrificed and the whole thing blown up. What the consequences would be to the Canal no one quite knew. Mines were laid round the hull and in the hold of the steamer and fired by means of electricity worked from a mile away. A column of water and wreckage estimated to be more than 2,000 feet high was thrown up, and the east bank of the Canal destroyed for a distance of 600 feet. All traffic was stopped, but it is not anticipated that the Canal will be closed for more than a day or two.

The "Times" has once more its correspondent at S. Petersburg all right. He is Mr. William Stead, whose very graphic—we feel this is the right word—article "Russia's New Great Hope" appeared last Tuesday. He is witnessing "the birth throes of a mighty state whose future promises to cast into the shade all the glories of the old Empire of which it is the heir". And Mr. Stead is going to be accoucheur. There is no doubt that he is perfectly at home with the leading men in Russia. "When I called on General Trepoff yesterday"—of all men think of our Mr. Stead and General Trepoff closeted together. More—General Trepoff sends his special messenger to tell Mr. Stead that Professor Miliukoff is out of gaol.

We rub our eyes in reading these wonders—"Can such things really be?" as the plain English country gentleman in Miss Hawker's charming "Mademoiselle Ixe" exclaimed when he found he had been harbouring as governess a desperate Russian Nihilist. All the same Mr. Stead's article is very interesting and well written, and the "Times" scored by printing it. Mr. Stead has immense faith in the future of the Duma. He expects the time will shortly come when the press in S. Petersburg will be free. At present it is "an outlaw". We shall not be in the slightest surprised to hear next that Mr. Stead has asked and obtained leave to organise the new press arrangements which he favours. We suppose we shall hear before long of a S. Petersburg edition of the "Daily Mail".

The preliminaries for holding a second peace conference at the Hague have been taken in hand by the Tsar, vice the President of the United States, who took the lead in the matter about a year ago whilst the war

was in progress. The time was inopportune then as the Tsar reminded him; but now that the war is over the President courteously yields the pas to the Russian Sovereign as the convener of the first conference. That conference was not wholly fruitless but it was a memorable fiasco as regards the grandiose proposals of disarmament which were put forward in the first instance as its motive. Nothing of this kind is proposed now. There is a significant phrase in the circular addressed to the Powers stating that the labours of the conference are to be of a strictly practical character; chiefly or exclusively the consideration of the questions which arose during the late war and which it is essential should be settled without delay. These questions are sufficiently recent to be remembered very distinctly. They more than once threatened war which might have led to a general mêlée. If the conference can establish fixed rules for the future, which however may not be possible in some of the cases, it will remove many sources of danger from the relations of neutrals to belligerents.

Average American manners do not please us, but it is rarely that one who is suffering from the complaint known as swelled head perpetrates the mistake made by General Chaffee of the United States Army at Bar-sur-Aube. The representatives of foreign armies were entertained at dinner by General Brugère after the manoeuvres, and by way of paying a special compliment to President Roosevelt's efforts to bring about peace between Russia and Japan, proposed a toast not on the list. General Chaffee in his reply showed himself quite incapable of appreciating the delicacy of the circumstance and forgetful of the presence of both British and French officers proceeded to enlarge on American and French relations during the War of Independence. If one thing is more certain than another it is that France is not particularly proud of the part she played in the dispute between England and her Colonies 125 years ago, and nothing is better established in history than that Yorktown would never have been taken by the rebels but for England's temporary loss of sea power.

Australia none too soon is waking up to the seriousness of a stationary population and the decrease in the number of emigrants to her shores. It is, however, to Australian representatives in London like Mr. T. A. Coghlan and Mr. Walter James rather than to the politicians on the spot that we must look for some attempt to bring the facts to the public mind. Australia has been hard hit by criticism, and the Labour party must be held responsible for creating a situation which makes such criticism possible. Mr. James, of Western Australia, energetically repudiates the mischievous suggestion that the Labour party is lacking in public honesty, but he cannot deny that the Immigration Laws passed to please the Labour group have been unwise. Mr. Coghlan is hurt because the virtues of Canada are proclaimed for the benefit of the emigrant while the shortcomings of Australia alone are insisted upon. The remedy is in Australia's own hands. A vigorous immigration campaign is about to be started by the Commonwealth authorities, and if they are wise the first thing they will do is to amend laws which Mr. Coghlan tacitly admits are open to misconception.

We are glad to find Mr. Wyndham back again in party politics: the Conservative party is far from so rich in personalities that it can dispense with a man of his gifts. Unfortunately he does not always "come off" in his platform speeches: he makes, it is true, always a good impression on the audience. But a really successful platform speaker is good in the reading as well as the speaking. Mr. Wyndham is at his best in the House of Commons when introducing and explaining some measure of which he is thoroughly master.

The byeways of Irish history during the last decade or two, to borrow a figure of Lowe's, have been strewn with the skeletons of dead Nationalist newspapers. There have been Parnellite and Anti-Parnellite and Healyite and Independent and Harringtonian and Redmondite organs: and now Mr. William O'Brien is bringing out his own particular newspaper.

It is called "The Irish People", and in his introductory article we note a beautiful threnody on Mr. Wyndham who, it seems, was "knifed" by the Irish party in the interests of the Londonderrys and the Carsons. In the peroration Mr. O'Brien declares that he is going to make "a calm appeal" to the judgment of Ireland. To begin this by talk about "knifing" seems odd. Meanwhile Mr. Davitt has let it be understood pretty clearly that he at any rate will have none of Mr. O'Brien and his conference. He applies the pleasing epithet "hysterical" to his old comrade. "The Irish People" promises to be a live organ of opinion. Ink-pot valour was never wanting in Nationalist politics.

We do not quite know whether to condole with or to congratulate the Lord Mayor of Dublin. A fortnight ago the Corporation was engaged in the anxious business of considering whether his salary should be raised from £1,687 per annum for the remainder of his term to £5,687. It was considered that having been underpaid in the past he should be overpaid in the future. The voting ended in a tie and solely in the interests of future Lord Mayors he settled the matter by giving his casting vote in favour of the increase. A few days' reflection, encouraged by a fairly liberal application of hostile opinion, has had a healthy effect. The question came up again on Monday last, and the Corporation with the consent of the Lord Mayor decided to rescind the previous resolution. This we may take it is "a moral victory" both ways.

"General" Booth has fulfilled a Biblical prophecy in his own person. "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men." We see that he is to stand before the fathers of the City and to receive its freedom from their honour-bestowing hands. Who shall say now that the City only kow-tows to worldly and material success? And yet the "General" has had to wait until he could make the tour of the world en prince in a motor-car. He has dazzled the City and the motor-car has conquered it. The automobile has punctuated the philanthropy which might otherwise not have won its reward. Besides he is one of the financial magnates; issues flaring prospectuses and raises large sums of money. He has fascinated the business imagination of the City. Journalists may be congratulated. When "General" Booth has received the imprimatur of the Corporation they can drop the pseudo-title which has bothered them so long. No doubt the army will hold a special thanksgiving, make a collection and call it a religious service.

Many people who do not take much interest in education become excited over the education rate. The Devonshire County Council who refused to levy a rate for secondary education would poll amongst them a large number of sympathisers; and the West Ham and Poplar Councils, who are talking of assembling a congress of disaffected authorities, may be sure of not lacking popular attention. These lukewarm educationists are agitated just now over the baby question. A short time ago they heard with mingled feelings that a certain class of infants ranging from three to five years of age had not exhibited much intellectual development in the subject of mental arithmetic. That was startling, because the ordinary man would have said these little creatures were at home with their mothers. He found with a shock that they were helping to raise the education rate. He will find many other equally silly things if he once begins to ask how his money goes in so-called education.

Why for instance does he so often impoverish himself by sending his children to "private academies" instead of to the schools that he is rated to support? A sounder education can be obtained at Board schools than at most of these institutions which live on the snobbish instincts of their pupils' parents and extract money from them by cajoling them into paying for pretentious subjects. The tradesmen or the tradesmen's wives who do not like their children to "mix" with working-men's children might hold meetings to encourage each other to get something from the rates they pay by setting respectability at defiance. They

should protect themselves in this way for they cannot count on education rates going down. Education, they must remember, is, amongst other things, to save the empire; and there can be no salvation without expense. They can ease the burden of the rates by doing what we have suggested without waiting for that general revision of the rating system which no Government has the courage to attempt.

The Iron and Steel Institute which has been meeting at Sheffield had only one or two non-technical moments illuminating to the general public. One of these was when Sir Charles Elliot, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, speaking of the deficiencies of scientific education in England mentioned that the mining engineers in South Africa, many of whom drew salaries amounting to several thousands of pounds, were almost without exception Americans. The other moment was when Mr. Holmshaw, a Sheffield workman, with shrewd insight pointed out the cause of much industrial suffering through unemployment owing to the advance of scientific discovery. The displacement of labour through expansion of trade or new inventions is, as Mr. Holmshaw said, a problem upon which it is for the interest of capital and labour alike that there should be mutual understanding. His aphorism, that the workman who emigrates is the best, is worth considering when Booth and other schemes are being devised for conveying abroad brain and muscle which might and ought to be made of service here.

Revising barristers have had many pretty problems set them in the Registration Courts this year. Fortunately for them the mental strain of deciding so many knotty questions, which would perhaps after all be as well settled by tossing a coin, does not last long. One gruesome case was, is a person disqualified who receives a coffin? Another instance of finely distinguishing was the decision that an unemployed (the term is technical now) who was supplied with "necessary" work might vote, but if it were made for him he might not. The better-off people worry the barrister with conundrums as to whether they are lodgers, occupiers, or householders, in all possible changes and permutations of flats and cubicles and chambers; and the great question of who has the key is decisive of many a free-born Britisher's right to the franchise as a lodger. A passive resister does not lose his right by spending part of the qualifying period in prison; for the sage reason that he could pay and come out if he pleased. The same rule applies to a private paying patient in an asylum. It might have been thought that he could not come out quite so readily, having to reckon with the doctors. The most definite impression from the revision proceedings is as to the lodger. Generally if he is not a fraud he is a hardly used person who ought to have at least two votes to repay him for the trouble he has in getting on to the register at all.

Lord Harris, in a eulogy of Colonel Rhodes, repeated the well-known military story of how that resourceful officer, when serving with Colonel Mahon's force advancing to the relief of Mafeking, sent Colonel Plumer who was co-operating from the north a cryptic reply to his request for information regarding the strength and composition of the southern relieving force. Lord Harris has, we fear, by all accounts missed both the point and the moral of the tale. He states truly that "the answers were received and correctly decoded" but the question is, Where? and when? Men engaged in the operations say that it was not until after the junction of the two forces and the relief of Mafeking that upon Mahon asking Plumer if he had understood the famous replies from Frank Rhodes, the recipient admitted that he had thought they were meant as a joke and so had put them in his pocket! "He had no time to read such rubbish" according to the report. Such is the story which was accepted throughout the army in South Africa, and, so far as we know, it has never been contradicted. Unless it can be proved wrong, we fear it must be accepted as a proof that more than one member of the present Army Council is rather lacking in humour and in imagination.

THE TREATY WITH JAPAN.

THERE are several ways of saying mate in chess. Excited by a long and hard struggle, in which the advantage has veered now to one side now the other, some players will bang down the piece blurring out truculently "check mate": even masters have been known occasionally to forget themselves thus. It is decidedly more professional and at the same time more gentlemanly not to use the word at all. Instead, you hasten to turn off the subject by analysing the latter part of the game, directly the deciding move has been made, and try to find out or show where your opponent made his first slip and how he could have beaten you had it not been for this. Lord Lansdowne's way is an improvement even on this in urbanity and kindness. He is prepared to show that it is all to your good and profit that you have been mated. Side by side with the new agreement between Great Britain and Japan we have his letter to the British Ambassador at S. Petersburg explaining its object and peculiar advantages. Armed with this how can Sir Charles Hardinge fail to persuade the Russian Government that they are in fortune's way? The letter is—of course—perfect in the form of diplomacy: logical too, humane, direct, simple. It is indeed a long time since we have read any note or argument on foreign affairs of such compelling interest. We call it simple—perhaps it is more than this, ingenuous. Lord Lansdowne never entertains a doubt that the Russian Government, in common with the Governments of all other Powers interested, will approve the alliance between this country and Japan, and the policy it is designed to ensure. The maintenance of peace in the Far East and the principle of the open door in China are the chief heads of this policy, and doubtless Lord Lansdowne is fully justified in his anticipation that these will commend themselves to all the world at the present time. But it is also parcel of the policy to ensure Japan quiet and firm hold over Korea and Port Arthur, though the latter is not actually mentioned either in the letter to Sir Charles Hardinge or in the articles of the Agreement. Port Arthur! We are impressed by an irony in things when we remember that the country—almost the Government—which today is giving her armed approval of Japan's hold over this place was the day before yesterday inviting Japan's opponent to come and settle in "a warm-water port".

The new alliance between England and Japan is a far more powerful instrument than the treaty it supersedes. The alliance of 1902 was a precaution against a general conflagration in the Far East: this of 1905 is much more like a precaution against a war there at all, certainly for years to come. By the second article of the Agreement England and Japan are mutually pledged to come to one another's aid should either be attacked by a third Power. The sphere of the Agreement too is widened—India comes within it. Some people held the view, when the terms of the 1902 treaty were announced, that we got much the worse of the partnership. We were to back up Japan in the sphere of vital import to her; whereas she was not, as it were, to go a yard out of her way to back us up. But our interests in Asia east of India, if not actually a matter of national life or death to us, were of gravest commercial moment, besides affecting prestige; we felt that we might be driven or drifted into war at any time to defend them. So the former bargain was not really one-sided. But by the new one perhaps we do get better terms. True, we have to go to war if Japan is attacked by a single Power in her own particular sphere; but then an attack on her, in this her time of triumph and proven great strength, by one Power seems less likely than was an attack on her by a combination of European Powers before the war. And—she is to aid us in India, which undoubtedly is a sphere of life and death importance to us, should we be attacked there by one or more Powers.

British interests then have assuredly not been overlooked by the Government in the making of this alliance: for what we give we get in return all that can in reason be looked for. Japan, with no possessions or concern in the West, could not of course agree to come to our aid here, should we be attacked by a

foreign Power. But on the other hand she incurs no slight liability on our behalf by the Indian article in the Agreement. An engaging plan was suggested lately in sedate even heavy fatherly quarters by which any uneasiness we have as to India may be laid. Let us take our money off the wrong horse. Let us generously go to Russia and offer her Constantinople on the understanding that once and for all she withdraws a covetous gaze from India. The fourth paragraph in the preamble of the new Agreement and Article IV., however, are a more workmanlike way of guarding India; and they have not the fault of making free with property that does not belong to us.

The prime consideration of Lord Lansdowne and the Government in making this treaty has been the good of Great Britain. It would be offensive humbug to affect that the end in view has been cosmopolitan and philanthropic. Our aim, in such negotiation with foreign nations, must ever be to come out "on top", by honourable means. "In her intercourse with foreign nations may she be always in the right": but the statesman who forgets for a second the interests of his country in those of cosmopolitanism betrays his trust. His is Jellybyism of the worst kind. And yet it so happens that—taken as a whole—the Agreement is one of which the cosmopolite well may approve. What Lord Lansdowne says of its peaceful intent is transparently sincere. Both Japan and Great Britain are intensely anxious to keep the peace in the Far East. This is a peace Agreement in its essence. It does go very well with the treaty between Japan and Russia, and Lord Lansdowne is not immodest in his claim or belief that "its conclusion may not have been without effect in facilitating the settlement by which the war has been so happily brought to an end"—we think that he might even have put it with less periphrasis.

We have now been busy for some years shaking off our splendid isolation. We thought we could be a kind of Robinson Crusoe in foreign politics, and "finish our journey alone". This was the view favoured by the best authority, and by the public too, only a few years ago. But it is all so changed within a very short span! Lately we have been full of sweet familiarities with other nations—settlements with France, cordialities with America, armed alliances with Japan; with "infinite talk" of understandings with this Power and that all over the world. If there were a new Spanish-succession question to-morrow we might want to have a hand in it, in our present mood; if another Thirty Years' War we should doubtless take a leading part in the Westphalian peace negotiations. To speak unfavourably of treaties and agreements at the present moment, when the world, particularly the English-speaking world, is so happy over them, might seem rather awkward. But one may remark surely without that distressing *sin gaucherie*—an English sin often and yet with no English name—that it was not by treaties, alliances and understandings all over the world that this nation grew to greatness. Rather, she grew to it by a detachment from such; which is the worthiest way to success, for nations as it is for men.

THE CASE OF HUNGARY AND NORWAY.

EUROPE has hardly done wondering whether Sweden and Norway are to fight over their differences before the same ominous question must be put in reference to the existing crisis in the affairs of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. On the day on which was taken the final decision that the separation of Sweden and Norway should be effected peaceably, occurred the meeting between the Emperor of Austria and the leaders of the Coalition which constitutes the Hungarian parliamentary majority. Whatever the ultimate result of the uncompromising attitude adopted by the Emperor may be, it is in its immediate aspect the precursor of strife and conflict and not of peace. At the first glance it appears that the good temper, and wise self-restraint, which are believed to have brought the Swedish-Norwegian communications and discussions to a satisfactory conclusion, are not to be found in the reception of the Hungarian delegates at the Hofburg last Saturday. In all crises of a similar kind the

personality of the Emperor has been the most effective conciliatory factor; and the possibility of a settlement on this occasion seemed to depend on the fact that the Sovereign himself had determined to meet his exigent subjects. Instead of a gracious reception, soothing to their amour propre, being accorded them they were received and dismissed within ten minutes. An ultimatum had been presented to them which precluded any personal consideration being given by the Sovereign himself to their counter-proposals, and they were referred to a non-Hungarian Minister if they still interested themselves in a barren controversy. Then Count Cziraky was appointed in place of Count Goluchowski, whom the delegates refused to meet, and his return with the King's answer to their propositions was so long delayed that they considered they were being treated with intentional discourtesy. They left Vienna, taking with them an additional Hungarian grievance.

There has been much speculation as to why the Emperor has followed a course which tends to exacerbate the position. Excuses have been made for him that his patience has been exhausted by the extravagant and impossible demands of the Hungarian intransigents. This may be so, but it broke down at an unfortunate moment if his intention had been to find some compromise which would enable the coalition to form a Government. It seems more probable that the issue of the Swedish-Norwegian separation movement had decided him that concessions or arrangements made with persons representing the nationalist or separatist movement would be strengthening the forces that are endangering the unity of the empire. The consequences in this case would be much more serious than the break up of a union like that of Sweden and Norway. In many respects the course of the quarrel between Sweden and Norway has been curiously like that of the quarrel between Austria and Hungary. But the political and economic results which may follow from the separation of the two Northern kingdoms are infinitely less serious than would follow from the separation of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The possible disturbances which may be caused in the European system by the disintegration of Sweden and Norway appear almost to be negligible in comparison with those which would inevitably follow from the separation of Austria and Hungary. The general feeling of Europe was that a war to prevent the secession of Norway from Sweden would have been a calamity not counterbalanced by the preservation of the two States in their integrity. In the case of Hungary there is considerable impatience that the impracticable egoism of the nationalist aspirations should be running a course not only detrimental to the interests of Hungary herself, but charged with dangers to other European countries. There is no alternative in the mind of the Hungarian King as there was in the mind of King Oscar; a peaceful dissolution of the union rather than war to enforce it. From the standpoint of the Hungarian King the success of such negotiations as have avoided war in Sweden and Norway would only mean disaster to him and his empire. In these circumstances he may well have thought that it was not permissible to him any longer to engage himself in compromises and understandings with a party whose ultimate aims are incompatible with the preservation of the empire. His ultimatum therefore is to be regarded as an act of policy which must depend for its effect on whether he has correctly gauged the psychological mood of the Separatist party and its leaders, and has seized the psychological moment for sobering them by confronting them with the actualities of the situation. They now know that the King will accept no ministry whose policy is to raise the military questions of the language of command and of service, and to change the bases of the union in regard to the army and foreign representatives. The practical grievances of the Hungarians in regard to their commercial relations with Austria are very considerable and in large measure well grounded. The economic situation has probably produced more discontent than rivalries of race or other sentimental considerations; and if Hungary were free as Norway now is to enter into her own commercial arrangements

this would at once introduce a change affecting all international politics. Upon this question the Emperor has declared that it cannot be considered as a one-sided matter between the Crown and the Hungarian nation but must be considered between the two States of the monarchy subject to the Royal sanction.

There may be some hope of an understanding on the basis of commercial rearrangements; and the prospect of concessions on the point of material interests might, in the meantime at least, divert the excited stream of Magyar aspirations into more practical channels, as has lately happened through the raising of the extended suffrage question. If the Coalition will not carry on government on these terms the Emperor plainly intimates his intention to govern by means which they would pronounce to be unconstitutional, but which he would hold to be the maintenance of the constitution. Whether they are prepared to acquiesce in or oppose the limitations thus laid down for them, or how far they will go in their opposition, are questions which cannot at present be answered. The answer must depend upon a knowledge of conditions which are imperfectly known; and all that can be said is that those conditions are more perfectly known to the Emperor than to anyone else; and that his ultimatum is designed to pull up the wild patriots in full career and make them reflect on the consequences of persisting in an impossible programme. Meantime we may ask what has become of the theory announced by Mr. Gladstone to commend his proposals for granting a Home Rule Parliament and Government to Ireland? The union of Sweden and Norway has come to an end and Norway has become independent; the bond of the Crown, which Mr. Gladstone declared to be a sufficient constraining force, having failed to counteract the separatism which is oblivious to every larger consideration than its own local sentiments and ambitions. Norway and Sweden, and Austro-Hungary, were Mr. Gladstone's cardinal illustrations of his theory. If Hungary has not yet pushed her separatist tendencies so far as Norway has done she seems determined on a course which threatens the disintegration of the empire. We may at any rate thank Norway and Sweden, and Austro-Hungary, for a further illustration of a fact that was evident at the time of the Irish Home Rule controversy. The kind of union extolled by Mr. Gladstone introduces infinite confusions and complications into government, and its natural end is a demand for separation and independence. Wiser heads may point out to the fanatics of separatism that they are neither regarding their own true interests nor considering the wider interests and benefit of the world. They will ruin an empire or themselves with equal indifference, for the sake of delusions which have their origin in petty egoisms and egregious self-conceit.

M. WITTE AND HIS WORK.

ANYBODY with the qualifications which M. Witte described the other day to a representative of the Associated Press as indispensable for writing on Russia, will appreciate the truism that all Russians are not bureaucrats; that black is not the sole pigment which suits either their complexion or their character. Of this there are several examples even among Russia's statesmen. M. Witte, for instance, is a fair specimen. In spite of some of his amazing diplomatic indiscretions, he is held throughout Russia to-day as the leading statesman. It is true that the Siberian Railway, which indirectly fostered the disastrous war policy, was a project of his own initiative—although the idea of the 5,000 mile-iron-ribbon to join East and West was primarily an appendage to his gigantic industrial expansion scheme which collapsed through artificial bolstering. From the ruin of his scheme have sprung up the numerous thorns of social-democrats and extreme revolutionaries in present-day Russia. Yet the system to which, unfortunately, this is due was the means of checking effectively the ruinous fluctuation of the rouble abroad. The treaty of peace for which M. Witte is technically and in the eyes of the world responsible, has contributed to both the Powers an almost equal share of present and prospective benefits

accruing from the war, however bloody and exhausting it may have been in its effects. Both countries stand on the threshold of a new era, unique and more momentous, perhaps, than any they have yet known. To-day the prospects of Japan on her first appearance before the world as an acknowledged member of the family of Great Powers are brilliant and illuminating in their forecast. A forecast of them has already been given by the able pen of one of her statesmen. In his opinion Japan will not be long in making good the indirect loss of productive power which she has suffered during the war. This and much more she will easily accomplish by developing her vast agricultural, industrial and mining enterprises in the regions secured to her by the war. In the words of Count Okuma, who is no optimist, Japan is at the dawn of an unprecedented expansion in a great field of enterprise. By the war, Japan has obtained everything for which she fought and more. The ceded indemnity claim, to which her territorial acquisitions outside her opponent's territory do not morally entitle her, and which her acute statesmen at the conference knew how to barter and forego at the supreme moment, can be recouped by the transfer to China of Manchuria and the valuable assets including its railway contained therein. The fishing rights which she has secured on the entire line of foreshores of Saghalin and Eastern Siberia will put Japan in possession of a great source of wealth in those seas, as well as provide an important naval vantage-ground of observation in her capacity of sentry in the Far East. Finally, the extended scope of her treaty with England and her unexpected naval supremacy ensures to her the coveted position of the predominant Power in the East.

The future prospects of Russia, both foreign and at home, through the opportune conclusion of an unpopular war, are in a certain sense no less promising than those of Japan. Never, perhaps, in the whole of her military and economic history has Russia gone through a more striking experience and learnt a more instructive lesson of the fallacy of national self-confidence and *laissez-faire* policy than she appears to have done in the war just ended. "The war", M. Witte states, "which has cost us dearly both from a material and moral point of view, has shown us from what organic defects—civil, naval and military—we were suffering. The experience thus acquired will serve us well. . . . With the now certain support of the popular representatives the Government will be able to carry out the necessary reforms, both those already granted and those which have been promised. The war has roughly restored Russia to her proper sphere in Europe and to her right path which is that of a sound European policy". The result of the war, according to M. Witte, will show Russia among other fallacies the danger of distant enterprises. The evacuation of Manchuria will enable her to consolidate her action in the development of her latent valuable resources in Siberia and Central Asia. Even the losses sustained by her fleet will have proved a blessing in disguise. M. Witte's clear vision and firm purpose coupled with his kindly demeanour and courtesy helped him not a little to secure such good terms of peace with Japan—terms which probably have saved Russia from a crisis in her internal affairs and have enabled the Tsar to face without mistrust the convoked representative Assembly. The restless extreme Radicals, who have been clamouring for a Russian parliament on the lines of a European democratic assembly, and the violent revolutionary parties who were shouting that Russia was on the brink of an abyss, and that nothing but a "free hand given to her people in the Government would save the country" are no doubt disappointed in the Manifesto. A careful unbiased examination of the provisions of the new Constitution shows that in his first step towards giving the people a share in the management of the affairs of the Empire the Tsar was guided by a conscientious desire of granting as much political power to the new Assembly as a people inexperienced in Parliamentary government can safely be entrusted with. Unity and unanimity are foreign and unpopular phases among Russian commercial and trading classes, and are less likely to be practised by political partisans in that country. The Russian is a great talker, of a highly

excitable nature, and fond of arguing à outrance. Parliamentary procedure and forbearance are less in vogue among the educated Russians than in more advanced and enlightened countries where they are frequently abused. The first political Congress representing the Russian Empire assembled in Moscow on Monday last. This time it has not come, as on the last occasion we had to refer to it, to talk at large in the air or elaborate theoretical politics, but "to do their utmost" as announced by Professor Milluikoff, the leader of the moderate section of the Radicals, who has just been released from prison pending his trial, "to make the Duma a national representative assembly in the very best sense of the word". The universal opinion of the ablest and most experienced men in Russia is that the Duma is the best if not the only hope of Russia's recovery from her difficulties.

SINGAPORE AND IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

LONG before the result of the Russo-Japanese war could have been foreseen the re-arrangement of naval stations rendered necessary by the altered conditions of modern warfare, determined the part which the island of Singapore would have to play in the general scheme of Imperial defence. To give effect to the principles enunciated in the memorandum of the First Lord on the distribution of the fleet the cruisers working in extra European waters were divided into three groups, the Eastern one being made up of the cruisers on the China, Australia, and East Indies stations. Singapore, ranking seventh among the great commercial ports of the world, is the natural rendezvous of the Eastern squadrons, and is so obviously a strategic centre that any step from which an intention to make of it a great naval base might be inferred was sure to create some sensation. When the Government of the Straits Settlements announced its intention of buying out the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company the shareholders seem to have been unpleasantly surprised, but the expropriation was bound to come sooner or later if we are ever to have a co-ordinated system of Imperial defence.

The official reason given by the Colonial Government for its action, that it is against public policy that a limited company should be allowed exclusively to control the shipping facilities of the port, may or may not be adequate according to the view taken, but it will probably be found that the Colonial Government and its advisers at home have underestimated the bill which will have to be paid for the acquisition of the property. There is apparently some ground for the official contention that under existing conditions the accommodation of the port is not entirely satisfactory, for at times vessels can be seen lying treble-banked along the wharves, but the expenditure of the board of directors at Singapore is controlled by the memorandum and articles of association which limit their spending powers, and the sanction of a consulting committee in London is necessary before any work involving extraordinary expenditure can be undertaken. The policy of the company has therefore been governed by this consulting committee, chiefly composed of Singapore merchants largely interested in its monopoly. The Tanjong Pagar dates its existence from 1864; some years afterwards the New Harbour Dock Company came into being, and later still a third undertaking called the Singapore Slipway Company was started; these smaller concerns were bought out by the older established business, and the Tanjong Pagar obtained complete control of shipping in the port. The names of the principal steamship companies making Singapore their place of call would alone give some slight idea of the task the arbitrators had before them in valuing this gigantic concern.

In addition to its wharves and warehouses the company owns some of the most valuable land in Singapore lying adjacent to the docks, and this has been calculated as being equal in value to the subscribed capital of a million and a half dollars. It appears that the dividends paid out for many years past have been considerably less than the profits would have

justified; an extraordinarily large amount has been written off for depreciation, and sinking funds have contributed to obscure the true meaning of the balance sheet. We are inclined to think the enormous value of the Tanjong Pagar undertaking was not fully appreciated when the decision to purchase was arrived at. Even when questions arising out of shares and goodwill are disposed of, the cost of extension will have to be faced, since on extension and improvement of the port the Government founded its right to expropriate.

The Government is fortunate in retaining the services of Mr. John Rumney Nicholson, the managing director of the Tanjong Pagar at Singapore, who had already drawn up exhaustive reports, plans and specifications for the improvement of the existing wharves &c., and made arrangements to develop the property of the company before the Government gave notice of intention to buy. Having made a study of what must be done to bring things up to date no one is better qualified to advise on the necessities of the port. It seems a corollary to any scheme of development that the line of existing wharves at Tanjong Pagar should be extended in a more or less straight line to join those of the New Harbour Dock Company, but before the Colonial Government can do this it will have to purchase certain properties, in particular Blangah Bay, the promontory known as S. James' and the wharves of the P. & O. Steam Navigation Company, all of which lie between the premises of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company and those of the New Harbour Dock Company. To get the straight line referred to will necessitate the cutting away of a portion of S. James' promontory, or the cutting of a channel sufficiently wide and deep to allow ocean-going steamers to berth alongside, and this must mean a very big additional expenditure over and above the initial purchase price.

Putting extension aside the sum required for improving works already in existence is bound to be large if the present unsatisfactory wooden wharves on wooden piles are to be replaced by a solid wall, or by wooden walls on concrete foundations. There are also other improvements equal in importance which demand attention, yet they certainly cannot be put in hand without further swelling the account. Were it not for money considerations the idea of dredging the lagoon which lies between the existing wharves and Keppel Road might be entertained; this lagoon is about half a mile long by a quarter broad and a magnificent basin might be made of it which would greatly lessen the congestion of Keppel Harbour and add to the accommodation of the port. Should a change of Government occur however there seems little chance of much being done. The taking over of the docks has already raised an outcry from the Radical press, and furnished it with an opportunity to insinuate that a new fortified naval base is about to be created, although outside the office of the "Daily News" it is a matter of common knowledge that Singapore is a strongly fortified base in being. Most of the approaches are easy to mine, the land forts are well disposed, and though the island is not artificially defended on the north side there are not many landing-places on the shore of the Johore Straits, the coast-line consisting principally of mango swamp. Good roads intersect the country and a railway runs across the island, two steam ferries connecting up the communication between Singapore and Johore Baharu. On the map Singapore looks an ideal spot for torpedo craft, but tides and currents run very strong and make navigation difficult and even dangerous without intimate knowledge of local conditions. The coaling and docking accommodation is ample to satisfy the requirements of the Navy for a long time to come, and a large dock designed to hold a battleship of 18,000 tons will shortly be begun, if indeed it is not already in course of construction.

As the amount of coal which is stored on Blakau Mati is a negligible quantity, and the solitary naval wharf there a broken-down wooden stage, his Majesty's ships have always gone to the Tanjong Pagar to coal and dock, and the transfer of ownership will make no practical difference to them. The strategic position and possibilities of defence are not the only

factors which have to be reckoned with when forming an opinion as to whether a place will make a good naval base. Climate, wind and weather must be considered. Fortunately the climate of Singapore is not unhealthy, malaria is unknown, and the shade temperature hovers round 82° throughout the year. A thick haze sometimes hangs about in the early morning, but is the nearest approach to fog and is uncommon. The monsoons do not blow with sufficient force to interfere seriously with shipping. Local storms, which last about twenty minutes and are accompanied by heavy rain-squalls, may be expected from May to July; they are violent enough to be unpleasant but seldom cause much damage at sea. From October to December Singapore Roads are exposed to the north-east monsoon, which can raise a nasty sea there, yet the north-east monsoon is never bad enough to warrant the enormous outlay which would be required if it were deemed desirable to make breakwaters for protection against it. One might imagine that Singapore had only just been discovered, though there is good authority for believing that the British Government has been aware of its existence for a considerable period. Admiral Fournier may not be strictly correct in saying that "Singapore is a key placed by England at the door of the Chinese seas", but the "City of the Lion" is a useful key to have possession of, and Great Britain would be ill advised not to see that the lock is kept in working order.

THE CITY.

THE suggestion made in our last issue to the effect that an immediate increase in the Bank-rate would probably conduce to better business and higher prices in the Stock Exchange outside of the securities chiefly bought for "money" purposes, appears extremely likely to be borne out judging from the improved tone noticeable on the announcement that the Bank rate had been increased to 4 per cent. at the Court on Thursday. It is hardly possible that the rate can be made effective in the open market for a week or so, but investors and speculators have now a solid basis to work upon—the uncertainty which has largely prevented purchases is a thing of the past, and in our opinion the fall of the year will show a marked rise in values. The state of foreign politics is also a reassuring factor: the Moorish difficulty is apparently likely to be settled without much further delay and the Scandinavian question is practically disposed of, whilst the announcement of the terms of the Anglo-Japanese alliance has given the most complete satisfaction in business circles. The outlook so far as Capel Court is concerned may be certainly described as fair and promising, and the reports which are to hand as to the continued general improvement in trade conditions throughout the country warrant the belief that the foundations of the improvement are well substantiated.

The Anglo-Japanese treaty was largely responsible for a further improvement in Japanese issues, more especially the 4½ per cent. loans. There is good authority for the belief that within a month or so a "blanket" loan will be issued for the purpose of conversion of part of the outstanding loans running at 6 per cent. It is understood that the internal 6 per cent. loans will be first extinguished, but the steadily improving quotations for the external loans should within a comparatively short period allow the larger operation to be carried through successfully on a 4 or 4½ per cent. basis. The following are the outstanding exchequer bonds floated for war purposes in the domestic market; the 6 per cent. fourth and fifth series are principally dealt in on this side, and at the current prices of 99½ and 98½ respectively the bonds offer considerable attraction as a short-dated investment with a high yield of interest:—

| | Month of issue. | Amount. Yen. | Price of issue (per face value yen 100). | Rate of interest. | Period of redemption. |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| First issue .. | Feb., 1904 | 100,000,000 | 95 | 5 % | 5 years from year of issue. |
| Second issue .. | May, 1904 | 100,000,000 | 98 | 5 % | 7 " " |
| Third issue .. | Nov., 1904 | 80,000,000 | 97 | 5 % | 7 " " |
| Fourth issue .. | Mar., 1905 | 100,000,000 | 99 | 6 % | 7 years from Sep., 1905. |
| Fifth issue .. | May, 1905 | 100,000,000 | 93 | 6 % | 7 years. |

(Yen=2s 6d.)

The prominence given to Japanese affairs has naturally excited the ingenuity and cupidity of the company-promoter and there are several finance companies waiting to be launched at a favourable moment. The investor will require to exercise considerable caution before applying for shares in these new ventures, which will doubtless be introduced in the prospectus by the usual glowing but generally ambiguous terms. If, as we are informed, certain of these finance companies are promoted by persons without previous knowledge of Japan and Japanese affairs, the odds are that the venture will be unsuccessful. Hazy generalities as to trade conditions, the welcome to be given to foreign capital and so on are all very well, but we should strongly advise every investor to go very carefully into the business antecedents of the directorate who should have had practical experience of Japanese commercial affairs; and even more important possibly will be the standing of the local boards which will be necessary to direct affairs on the spot.

Among colonial securities the item of interest has been the appearance of the prospectus for a 3½ per cent. loan for Newfoundland at the price of 96 and the present issue is for £390,500. This is the first Newfoundland loan which has complied with the provisions laid down by the Treasury under the Colonial Stock Act and it is therefore a trustee security. The figures given in the prospectus show the colony to be in a sound financial condition and the present issue is to be applied towards taking over the telegraphs from the Reid-Newfoundland Company and for further telegraph extensions in the colony: the loan may be recommended as a good investment yielding about £3 14s. per cent. at the price. The interest in colonial railway shares continues to be strong and Canadian Pacific have been in demand though they do not close at the best. It is stated that a bonus in the form of fresh stock to be offered to existing shareholders at par will be made, and if the basis is as favourable as stated the quotation of the ordinary shares might quite reasonably go to 200; a feature about Canadian Pacific is that a large proportion of purchases is on genuine investment account, though of course there is also a heavy speculative account.

Foreign rails have been actively dealt in, and in the Argentine section we are quite prepared to see higher prices. The interim report for the first half of 1905 of the Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway has just been issued, and the dividends are identical with those for the same period of last year. After providing for the preference dividends, 2½ per cent. (at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum) goes to the ordinary stockholders, and, following the usual practice, the distribution on the deferred stock will be made next April. The figures published show substantial progress in every direction, and there is every reason to anticipate that the final dividends will bring the total distribution for the year to 6 per cent. on the ordinary and deferred stocks, with a reasonable possibility that this may be still further improved upon. The Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway has also announced its dividend at the rate of 7 per cent., although the net earnings would have permitted rather more than 8 per cent. to be paid on the ordinary stock.

In American rails there has been a certain degree of hesitancy which is inseparable from the period of the year, but on the whole the money position in New York appears to be following normal lines without strong squeeze, though there is undoubted tightness. The reports which are available as to the progress of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad are very encouraging and we think that the shares of this company might be bought on a reasonable expectation of a \$10 rise. The line is earning about 4½ per cent. on its common stock, and although there is no immediate prospect that a higher dividend than the present 1 per cent. will be paid, a comparison of the affairs of the company for the last five years shows that the net income has increased from \$4,462,803 to \$7,137,047 and that after providing for all fixed charges and the dividend on the common stock the balance for 1904-5 is \$2,243,735 against \$551,304 for 1899-1900. Most of this increase has gone into betterments and for payments on car trust accounts, so that the improvement of the line is

proceeding on sound lines thereby enhancing the prospective value of the property.

The mining markets have been dull, although a recovery in the price of Banket shares has given a fillip to Rhodesian companies. Kaffir shares have drooped however in the absence of any public interest, and the exodus of jobbers from this section of the House to other markets illustrates in an eloquent manner the opinion of those who should be in a position to judge as to the expectation of any immediate revival in South African mining shares.

INSURANCE.

YORKSHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE valuation returns required by the Life Assurance Companies Act afford an excellent indication of the position and prospects of particular companies. A certain amount of information is demanded, the compilation of which involves a good deal of trouble and is of little value to anybody; while we are afraid that to the lay mind even the most important features of the valuation returns are to a large extent unintelligible. The main features, however, are easily understood when stated in untechnical language, and in the great majority of British companies afford the most satisfactory evidence of financial security and of good bonus prospects.

The most recent valuation report that has been issued is that of the Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company which gives the position of the office at the beginning of 1905, together with the results of the Life assurance accounts for the past five years. The Yorkshire was established in 1824, and has always been quite a small company. Recently a more energetic policy has been adopted, with quite satisfactory results. In the course of five years the premiums received for Life assurance amounted to £442,594, of which 17 per cent. was paid for commission and expenses, and nearly 3½ per cent. was given to the proprietors as their share of the Life assurance surplus.

On the present occasion the proprietors receive one-sixth of the distributed surplus, but as the business increases their proportion of the total profits will be less, since it cannot exceed £15,000 until one-tenth of the distributed surplus amounts to a larger sum. The provision set aside for future expenses is about 23 per cent. of the premiums, a proportion which leaves a margin of 2½ per cent. of the premium income to accumulate for bonuses after paying expenses and shareholders. This proportion is not large, but is likely to increase in the future.

The funds in hand are sufficient to meet the liabilities if interest is earned at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum: the actual yield upon the funds is considerably more than this and constitutes a substantial source of surplus. The tables employed for estimating the future mortality are the new British offices tables, which in a company so carefully managed as the Yorkshire doubtless means a further addition to the profits as the result of the mortality experienced being less than the mortality provided for. The amount of the bonuses varies very largely with the duration of the policies, but on the whole the reversionary additions are well in excess of 30s. per cent. per annum, which is quite a good return.

In addition to Life assurance the Yorkshire transacts both Fire and Accident insurance. Following the example of some of the larger Fire offices it is extending its business by taking over other companies. It has acquired the Lion Fire Insurance Company and a considerable portion of the business of the National Insurance Company of Ireland: with the careful handling that is sure to follow from the Yorkshire management both these transactions should yield profitable results. The trading profit shown by the Fire account last year amounted to about 9 per cent. of the premiums received. In the Accident branch the premium income was £30,000 and the claims and expenses a little over £26,000, showing a profit of nearly 12 per cent. of the premium income.

The figures in all departments indicate sound management and a thoroughly healthy state of affairs. Not the

least satisfactory feature of the report is the statement that the market value of the Stock Exchange securities at the end of last year was in excess of the value at which they stood in the books of the company. In present circumstances an insurance office is very fortunate when it can re-value its assets at market prices without having to write off anything for depreciation, and this is the happy position of the Yorkshire. In these days it is so customary to praise magnitude and ignore merit, that we are glad to see the unmistakable evidences of prosperity in the Yorkshire which are afforded by its valuation returns and its annual report.

BLAMELESS SECOND-CLASS.

WHEN Lord Beaconsfield, or whoever it was, for the story has been attributed to many different people, declared that he travelled third-class "because there was not a fourth", he aimed a fatal blow at the class system as understood by railway companies. To travel third-class pandered to a certain proud humility existing frequently in those who have no need to study the expenditure of pennies. The railways—some of them—have spoilt the whole idea by making their third-class carriages quite luxurious. The contrast which at one time existed between the highest and the lowest class was its greatest charm. It was that sharp, pitiless distinction that appeals at once to the eye and to the imagination. Now it is gone, and on most railways, so far as the comfort of the seats is concerned, one may as well travel third.

While the general levelling up of railways may be accountable in part for the diminution in the number of second-class passengers, it would be only a shallow observer who would find in this a sufficient explanation. The fact is that the great "middle-class" the beloved of John Bright, for whom the second-class was invented, can no longer endure to be so branded. Respectability has succumbed to the ridicule that kills. The middle-class is nettled by the talk about its own virtues. "Respectable" no longer means capable of inspiring respect. It is a term of reproach hurled at the head of the honest and hard-working. Even the most irreproachable butlerman will feel hurt at its application to himself. An age that consigned the curate and the attorney to the servants' hall can hardly conceive the revolution that has taken place in the middle-class when every successful tradesman aspires to have his name in Debrett.

And yet there is a certain type of person to whom a second-class railway carriage must still seem as a haven of refuge, separating him, perhaps, from the sheep on one hand and the goats on the other, but bringing him into an atmosphere of neutral tints where his own colourlessness will not be conspicuous. There are the pathetic shabby genteel, the reduced gentlewoman of the advertisements in her faded black gown—the tutor out of employment—the man who has seen better days—the valet—the lady's-maid. About them all is an indefinable atmosphere, that intense earnestness of the second-rate nature, that unfortunate method of handling a subject so that everything they say is almost as wearisome to themselves as to those who have to listen to it. They are self-confessed mediocrities. And yet there is a pretension about them which is sometimes pathetic if oftener merely ludicrous. They are so feverishly eager to "keep themselves to themselves"—that mystic phrase which represents sometimes the sum total of those who have lost all other ambition—that they resent the presence among them of anyone who strikes a more vivid note. To be in harmony with the atmosphere of the characteristic second-class carriage one must talk in whispers and wear black. To exhibit any joyousness or special interest, to raise one's voice or be clad in bright colours, is to be out of touch with your surroundings.

The mere taking of a second-class ticket is a sort of confession of faith. "I do not claim", saith the passenger, "to be very rich or high-born as do some of those who travel in a higher class. I know my 'betters'. But I also know my inferiors. I will travel

neither with one nor the other. Here is my carriage". On the lips of the second-class traveller may most often be heard these words "gentleman" and "lady". Their highest approbation is expressed by "ladylike" and "gentlemanly". They possess some mysterious standard for weighing up the conduct of their fellows, and while they are willing to admit that a man who does nothing must be a "gentleman", they are frequently chary about applying the term to those who follow the same avocations as themselves. Their greatest contempt is reserved for the "bounder" aping the manner of "gentlemen" for the discovery of whom they possess an unerring instinct. There is an air of mystery about many of them. They are the might-have-beens who have never quite got there. Some of them have secret vices of a sordid kind which bring to their faces that pinched, anxious expression of those who fear discovery. Others again have that saddest of all human aspects—the look of those about whom it does not much matter. And over all is that terrible desire apparent to "keep up appearances", to disguise themselves, at all costs, even from themselves.

OLD WATERWAYS—III.

THE trekshuyt of the Low Countries was before my time, though I have heard old staggers dilate on the delights of the leisurely mode of travel and the luxury of the commissariat. But in early boyhood I had my experiences of canal navigation, when Scotland had scarcely been touched by the railways. Coaches were still running regularly on the northern and southern roads, and the Edinburgh and Glasgow Canal was in full activity when the Edinburgh and Glasgow railway was in course of construction or completed. When I first was sent from Edinburgh to school in Stirlingshire, I used to be forwarded by canal. The school, by the way, was in the quaint old mansion of Polemont whence about a baker's dozen of us soon migrated with the Rev. Mr. Cunningham to Blair Lodge, to become the nucleus of that flourishing academy. At Blair Lodge, though well treated on the whole, I temporarily lost my taste for mutton, for we used to buy sheep by the hundred and eat through them from the heads to the trotters. As for the canal boat, my memories are of scarcity rather than satiety—it seemed hardly worth while to victual a boy for so short a voyage, and no provisions were to be had on board. By a flight of fancy the "Swallow" was advertised as flying through a succession of romantic scenes. The scenery was romantic enough and rich in historical interest: "the pity was that you saw so little of it". The level of the canal lies low; the low-roofed cabin was run on the lines of the gondola, evidently devised for Venetian lovemaking by moonlight, screened from the gaze of the curious public. But there was little love made or lost in the cabin of the "Swallow", where one was tightly wedged among substantial farmers, and their portly wives nursing babies or baskets, and where a small boy was summarily suppressed. The flight of the "Swallow" in full swing was measured by the ambling trot of a couple of screws, harnessed tandem-fashion. The wheeler—but there were no wheels—was ridden by a feather-weight, who would jump off at times to stretch his legs and encourage his horses by giving them a licking and a lead. The "swift" boats were soon distanced by the trains, when the canal was given over to goods traffic. I had a good deal to say to the barges and the towropes later, when as a member of the S. Andrew's Boat Club I came many a cropper when sculling home in the dark or the moonlight from our dining-room at Hermiston, where we held convivial meetings in the summer evenings. Hermiston had been the first relay of the flying boats; we rented the premises, did our cooking in the old stable, and dined or supped and held harmonious smoking concerts in what had of old time been the passengers' waiting-room.

William Howitt in his "Visits to Remarkable Places" had expatiated on the hosts of Southern pilgrims Scott had attracted to the North. Had he foreseen the developments of the future, the rivalries of competing railways and the swarms of cheap trippers, he would

have pitched his pæan of progress in a higher key. Fifty years ago the rush was still to be gauged by the number of wheels and horses, and the lake navigation was conducted in the most primitive fashion. There were fair boats on the larger lakes, but they set time at defiance, never wasted fuel, and gave you ample time to admire the glories of the mountain giants that overshadowed them. Ben Lomond, Ben Cruachan, Ben Lawers. Loch Katrine, though the most magnetic of all, was served according to its size. One sultry summer evening, I strolled down from the Trossachs Hotel to where the tiny "Lady of the Lake" was tethered to a wooden jetty. She was a trifle more commodious than a modern steam launch, and I got into conversation with her crew. They consisted of the skipper, the engineer and the boy who stoked, and they were all smoking for dear life in a darkness of midges. But if the lake steamers were few and poorly fitted, that was the golden age of the cranky ferry-boats. In Western Scotland many an arm of the sea stretched across your shortest road, only to be circumvented by a long day's travel. You were at the mercy of the ferrymen, and might have to signal to them on the other side. In a Highland downpour you had to practise patience and had trying experiences of the Celtic slowness. The boat had been frequently patched, but never thoroughly repaired. The rowers, when they did launch out, rather lay than stretched to the oars, and sometimes their Highland phlegm or pluck was apt to aggravate the Lowlander. For in those narrowing bottle-necks between hill and sands when the tide from the sea met the gusts from the mountains there was apt to be an angry turmoil, and with the water oozing through leaking planks you were reminded of the fate of Lord Ullin's daughter. If you were travelling with a carriage, the troubles and risks were increased. Then you committed yourself to a flat-bottomed barge, something like a Virginian scow, and the horses were awkward travelling companions. The Highland ponies faced the water quietly enough, but the lowlanders took to rearing, slipping down and half strangling themselves: once I remember—I think it was on Loch Etive—in vivid lightning flashes and deafening thunder peals, a horse broke his halter, leaping clean overboard, and nearly bringing all his company to shipwreck.

If the steamers on the lakes were slow or small, it was different with those on the Clyde. The river had no rival in the rail, and from murky morning to smoke-clouded eve the Broomielaw was a bustling scene. Already the romantic shores down to Largs and Rothesay had been besprinkled with rising health resorts. I have recollections of the river before it was dredged and embanked. I believe we used to go steady as far as Govan, and then let ourselves go. Of course in those days you soon emerged from the city gloom into the clear air of the country. There was only occasional hammering from shipyards. And what glorious views you have on the Clyde when some loch or glen opens a vista into the mountains. The voyage through the land-locked Kyles of Bute was delightful, but it might be a serious piece of business rounding the Mull of Kintyre—the Moil as they call it and the Horn of those seas. The company was generally as obstreperous as the cargo, and coming from the north the boats were always overlaid with bellowing cattle and complaining sheep. It was pretty sure to be blowing half a gale, with sleet or rain according to the season, so the cabin was invariably overcrowded. There were lairds from remote lochs and isles, and their sheep-farming tenants in damp and shaggy overcoats, which they did not care to remove though the cabin atmosphere was stifling. Some of their colliers had crept in and curled up under the table. These shaggy Celts had the constitutions of the burgomasters I mentioned in a former article; and if they did feel any qualms, they considered toddy the grand specific. Tallisker and Long John, both from Argyleshire distilleries, were their favourite brands. The bulk of the society seldom thought of turning in, which was just as well, as the accommodation was inadequate and the berths cramped. In such circumstances you have generally the certain hope of a speedy release. That was by no means always the case in that western voyage if you were bound for one of the smaller islands. The

steamer stood in towards the pierless bay, saw the Atlantic surges breaking on the shore and pronounced disembarkation impossible. So you were carried on indefinitely into the howling waste of waters. Perhaps it was almost worse when you were waiting to be taken off from some sporting Patmos. You had been expecting anxiously for hours in a miserable Highland change-house; the boatmen had been desponding but you still hoped the best; when the longed-for steamer rounded the point, made a waft of decided negation, and left you lamenting to try your luck again.

Before the railways, there was a lively and lucrative passenger traffic between Granton—the Duke of Buccleuch's new harbour—and the ports of the North. As a schoolboy I used to be roused in the smallest of the small hours to drive down to Granton in a "minibus" to take passage in the "Duchess of Sutherland" or "The Queen". "The Queen", by the way, was the first steamer in which the company launched out in the way of artistic adornment, and the cabin was panelled with spirited paintings by Giles, known in the North as the Aberdeenshire Landseer. The fares were low, but once I remember being put in charge of a young doctor, who was going north with one or two of his cronies. For "a ploy", as he called it, but doubtless from economy, they had taken tickets for the steerage, which was literally a deck passage. The steerage was swept by the green surges, and the doctor had an attack of pneumonia from which he never recovered. But he could not have afforded to travel by coach. Whatever the weather, you had a toss in S. Andrew's Bay, which was the Biscay of the East, as the Moil was the Horn of the West. And if Aberdeen was your destination it was always ticklish of approach, with an extremely dangerous bar. Sometimes you lay pitching off it for an hour or two; the "Duchess of Sutherland" came to grief on the sands within gunshot of the pier. There had been another memorable shipwreck mentioned by Scott on his northern cruise, and which I have special reason for remembering. We were burying a great aunt of mine in the family vault in a lonely churchyard overlooking the Don. The sides of the vault were supported by massive beams, and I am told they were the timbers of the ill-fated "Oscar", the whaler which, as Scott says, had been lost with all hands at the back of the Girdleness, now guarded by a far-flashing lighthouse.

ALEXANDER INNES SHAND.

SOME BOOKS ON MUSIC.

THE editor has requested me to review a little booklet which lately appeared—a tiny Life of Richard Wagner, published by Messrs. Bell. To the request is added the injunction to be as lenient as my nature will permit, to use no unnecessary violence, to avoid causing needless pain. If in consequence this article shows any signs of fawning on a mere distinguished name the indulgent reader must remember that even a musical critic is merely his chief's most obedient servant, and that in my case loyalty comes long before honesty. I would fain smite heavily; but orders are things to be obeyed without grumbling.

Some of Messrs. Bell's Miniature Musician series have been noticed already in these columns. Mr. J. S. Shedlock's Beethoven was the best summing-up of that composer that I have read. Others were a trifle weak and less well informed; but at any rate all were free from the vice of schoolmaster-ism; they read easily and told all that could be told in the space. The author of the latest volume, Wagner, has evidently tried to beat Mr. Shedlock at his game; and in spite of the editorial injunction I must reluctantly say he has just as evidently failed. Not that I consider the book an entire failure—on the contrary, those who want to learn something about one of the greatest composers, and not wish to be wholly misinformed, can do worse than spend a shilling with Messrs. Bell. The writer starts, as he evidently thinks rightly, at the beginning. He endeavours to show us, first of all that though Wagner is to us quite modern, and his music almost as popular as one of Sousa's marches or the tunes in the latest "Girl" musical comedy, he was born before the world had entered on the new era,

born fourteen years before Beethoven's death, and had as his teachers men who had known Haydn and Mozart and the pupils of Sebastian Bach. When he came into the world, we are reminded, Bach had been dead about sixty years; and it is scarcely sixty years to-day since Mendelssohn died. At the same time music in Germany was advancing with tremendous rapidity; and so we get an explanation of the fact that Wagner, who might have heard nothing but Haydnian periwig music in his boyhood, actually was brought up on Beethoven and Weber and shows not a hint of the pigtail in his first attempts at opera-writing. This established, the author traces the course of his development from "The Flying Dutchman" to the "Ring", giving us copious explanations of the later dramas. These explanations will interest, incense or bore the reader according to the reader's own temperament and power of understanding. Me they rather interested—in fact, on reading the book this morning more than one piece of analysis surprised me not a little. It is good to be clever; but when a man seeks to be too clever he simply courts discomfiture. I suspect that our author will be badly snubbed by some of the critics who, having studied old-fashioned Italian opera all their lives, and having studied instrumental music at the Philharmonic Society, of course know all about it. Still, the book, in spite of many defects—mainly owing, it seems to me, to the author's gross carelessness—may be found useful by those who wish to understand Wagner. If I say it is well written I only mean the style commends itself to me as natural, free from affectation and high-falutin' and journalistic tags. It may seem incredible, but it is true, that Wagner is not once alluded to as the "Bayreuth master". For this I am grateful, for once I mentally compiled a long list from which I give here a few specimens:

| | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|----------------------|
| Bach | . | . | . | The Leipzig cantor. |
| Mozart | . | . | . | The Salzburg master. |
| Beethoven | . | . | . | The Bonn master. |
| Brahms | . | . | . | The Hamburg master. |

Why anyone should take the trouble to write three words when one would serve may puzzle some people; but it must be remembered that many writers on music are paid by the line and that some of them like to display their dictionary knowledge.

It may be asked why should books about Wagner be written at all? There are endless books about Wagner; and the magazine articles alone on him and his art and his friends and his enemies must surely occupy half the shelfage room at the British Museum. But the truth is that most of this stuff was written before Wagner was in the least understood. The writers of it had not taken the trouble to understand him; they simply went to Bayreuth and were appalled or delighted and covered reams of paper with more or less idiotic impressions. Mr. Henry Finck wrote a very fair summing up of the matter; the late Mr. Hueffer honoured the world with a perfectly useless production; and Mr. Ashton Ellis is still busy on a biography which I am told he means to continue throughout eternity. Mr. Bernard Shaw wrote a Fabian tract; but unfortunately Mr. Pease made a mistake and sent it to a publisher and it appeared under the title of "The Perfect Wagnerite". It is only quite recently that we have begun to see what Wagner's real aims were and to what extent he succeeded in attaining them. Any serious attempt to understand the question is to be welcomed. It has been complicated not only by Wagner's herd of followers but by Wagner's own writings. As he got older he grew vainer and undoubtedly came to regard himself as something of a prophet and redeemer of the human race. From the stage at which he could honestly write that a creative artist stood puzzled before his finished work, and could say no more than anyone else about its true "meaning" he passed to the stage of a "teacher" who had to preach a new gospel to humanity. He read his old-age meanings into his earlier operas, and so confused and muddled people that the simple beauty, dramatic force, pathos and all the thousand qualities of all his operas passed unobserved. Even in "Parsifal"—which by the way our author rather unceremoniously kicks out of doors as not worth discussing—even there

we can find some magnificent music; but with these ears of mine I have heard lectures on the opera in which the music was hardly mentioned, while its doctrines were lengthily expounded. The doctrines include that of vegetarianism on the ground that Gurnemanz objects to the public assassination of a duck. Vegetarianism! think of it: Wagner, as mighty a flesh-eater as Handel or Dr. Johnson himself. We need all this stuff cleared away in the first place; and then by a process of careful discrimination between what Wagner said and wrote and what Wagner did we may gradually come to appreciate him justly. And when the whole thing is done and the lesson learnt the moral will be that composers should not be allowed to write about themselves or their art. In their own interests it should be forbidden. Wagner has been dead twenty-two years, and even now the average music-lover cannot see him plain because of the dust-cloud of controversy raised by himself and his silly followers.

Those who wish a lengthier analysis of "Tristan" than is given in the above little work* may go with advantage to "Tristan and Isolde: an Interpretation" by Alice S. Cleather and Basil Crump (Methuen). It is clearly written; the drama, from the authors' point of view, is admirably summed-up; and, above all, we have a guide that is not overladen with "motives". This is a word I have grown afraid of, and I dodge motive-hunters as I would a plague. On the slightest provocation or no provocation at all they find resemblances between passages which do not resemble each other in the least and forthwith label them motives. This game is not played in the present book, which is by far the best thing of the sort I have yet come across.

A book that is more amusing than useful is one on "Old Violins" (Edinburgh: John Grant) by the late Rev. H. R. Haweis. Mr. Haweis took himself with a degree of seriousness I cannot pretend to; but he had an honest love of fiddles and gradually got to know a great deal about them. He gossips lightly and interestingly and avoids the pulpit eloquence and sentimentality that defaced some of his more pretentious works. The book is admirably illustrated.

JOHN F. RUNCIMAN.

"THE CONQUEROR."

GENERALLY, in modern times, a poetic drama is chiefly pleasant and impressive as a sign of its author's great strength of character. Of his temperament, as apart from his character, it tells us little; and this little is the merely negative information that he is not a poet. If he were evidently a poet, we should have no proof of his boldness and tenacity. There would have been nothing morally grand in his resolve to write a poetic drama, nor in his power of sticking to his task till the task was finished. He would simply have been following his own bent; and we should be well prepared to hear of him as being actually among the weakest and most self-indulgent of mortal creatures. He, the true dramatic poet, is, as I have hinted, rather rare; and rarity is apt to affect our judgment. Perhaps it is for this reason that, when we do come across a true poetic drama, we make more fuss about its author than we make about those ninety and nine just persons who are his rivals. The reason, I do trust, is not that our æsthetic sense is stronger than our moral sense. Surely we are not so fallen as to prefer the butterfly to the ant—the bird to the bee. If either birds and butterflies or bees and ants had to be exterminated from this world, surely it is with our butterfly-nets and our guns that we should instantly set forth. Likewise, if we had definitely to choose between a few poetic dramas by possible weaklings, and a vast number of poetic dramas which testify to the stern stuff that their authors are made of, we should not disgrace ourselves in the eyes of the moral world. Yes, we are sound enough. Our heart's in the right place. But this makes it none the less regrettable that we should appear, as we generally do, grudging in our acknow-

ledgment of—or even blind to—the grand qualities underlying the majority of poetic dramas in modern times. The authors of these may feel no bitterness at our discourtesy. They, in their strength, may be indifferent alike to the obloquy and to the applause of audiences. They certainly do not seem ever to be discouraged. Uninspired by heaven, uncrowned by men, they go on from strength to strength, from dulness to dulness, tramping most sturdily, careless whether their good deeds shine, or briefly and obscurely flicker, in a naughty world. But, as I was just suggesting, the world is less naughty than it appears. And we ought, in fairness to ourselves, to let these authors know, from time to time, how very deeply we do, in our heart of hearts, esteem them. To the latest of them—"Mr. R. E. Fyffe", whose play "The Conqueror" was produced last Saturday evening in the beautiful Scala Theatre—I offer a frankly respectful welcome.

I had intended, as an appropriate compliment, to write the whole of my criticism in blank verse. After I had composed twenty lines or so, I decided to fall back on prose. The blank verse line is not for me the line of least resistance. Yet I do not fancy that it offers a more stubborn resistance to me than to Mr. Fyffe. Nor do I fancy that I am below the average in will-power. Thus am I the better enabled to gauge the will-power of Mr. Fyffe, who has written four long acts of a play in the very medium which I abandoned at the outset. There was, certainly, no need for me to write in that medium. But neither was there any need for Mr. Fyffe to do so. On the contrary, there were two good reasons why he should not do so. British mimes, for the most part, are shy of blank verse; and so (unless it is Shakespeare's, and therefore inevitable) are British audiences. Yet Mr. Fyffe was not to be deflected. He was going to be thoroughly decasyllabic, or perish in the attempt. Thoroughly decasyllabic he is. Every line that I heard uttered from the stage of the Scala seemed to scan perfectly. And all the characters talked a more or less Elizabethan rhetoric. There was a profusion of highly respectable metaphors. The years were bridges across which Morven (Lord of Abivard) came to Amoranza; recollection seized him by the throat; the moon's white face hung 'i' the sky; κ.τ.λ. Everything was correct. There was only one moment when Mr. Fyffe was caught tripping—the moment when Amoranza, being asked by a stranger whether the maid who lived in yonder castle were "fair", had to reply, with coquettish embarrassment, "Passing fair", as who should say "fairly fair". But for his evident belief that Polonius only loved Ophelia fairly well, Mr. Fyffe seems to be quite a good scholar. He has a nice discretion in the use of words. He is never guilty of an obvious bathos. Perhaps he might be, if ever he scaled a height. But that he never does. He is, as it were, duly accoutred as a mountaineer, with ice-axe and alpenstock and smoked glasses and all the rest of it; but in these accoutrements he plods ever along the level and beaten track. He has, in other words, all the paraphernalia of poetry, but does not for a moment begin to be a poet. He has all the tricks of the form, with never a spark of the spirit. In art, form without spirit very soon becomes tedious. The audience on the first night was fairly—though not passing—enthusiastic; but I fancy that the greater part of it acknowledged to itself that it was being considerably bored. In less than three hours, for us, the play was over. How many scores of hours must have been spent in the writing of it? Guess the extent of Mr. Fyffe's own previous boredom. And join with me in admiration of his "grit".

Shakespeare had the habit of interpolating in his serious plays scenes of comic relief. No poetic drama, therefore, is complete without one or two such scenes. Mr. Fyffe, resolutely, has supplied one or two. He himself may, in private life, have a very keen sense of humour. I have known several extremely amusing men who, when they tried to express their humour through the medium of writing, instantly became dull, and were acutely conscious of their own dulness. Whether Mr. Fyffe be of this order, or whether he be a man with no natural bent towards humour, it is equally admirable that he should have set himself, and accomplished, the task of writing the scenes of comic

* "Wagner." By John F. Runciman. London: Bell & Sons. 1905. 1s.

relief that appear in "The Conqueror". But ought anyone's character, however strong, be submitted to such a strain? There are some forms of heroism that it is painful to contemplate. Surely, this is one of them. It is akin to the dangerous trades. If I were in Parliament, I should introduce a short bill to illegalise the introduction of comic relief into poetic dramas. Humanitarianism apart, the present system is wrong æsthetically. Wedges of even good comedy, thrust into (good) poetic drama, are a nuisance, not a "relief".

Strictly speaking, dramatists, like poets, must be born, not made. I do not fancy that Mr. Fyffe is a born dramatist. He will never, I suspect, create a dramatic masterpiece. But he shows in "The Conqueror" that he has a power for orderly construction; and the last act of the play is theatrically effective. The fault of the first three acts is that they merely lead up, in an orderly fashion, to the last act. They are not effective in themselves. However, orderliness is a virtue in the building a play: And in time, Mr. Fyffe, using the keen intelligence that he evidently possesses, will be able to write thoroughly effective plays. But let him write them in prose. He has proved sufficiently his powers of perseverance. These, henceforth, let him bring to bear on things more susceptible to them than poetry.

When I say that Mr. Fyffe is no poet, I do not mean merely that his verse is undistinguished. There are true poets who cannot write well in verse—can only handle well the medium of prose. But Mr. Fyffe is prosaic in invention. His hero, Morven, is an impossible hero for poetic drama. That a man should be fascinated by a little girl of ten years old, and should intend to marry her later on, and finally should return for this express purpose after the lapse of eight years, is not at all an impossible idea. But it is an idea which makes the soldier a slightly ridiculous, or perhaps a slightly unpleasant, figure. Not even Mr. Forbes Robertson could be expected to make Morven wholly dignified or delightful. He, moreover, was handicapped by the fact that Morven was a soldier—a tramping and blood-thirsty soldier. Mr. Forbes Robertson's method does not blend well with even the most modified forms of militarism. He is at his best in the last act, when Morven shows a more civilian side to his nature, and renounces his chosen bride because she does not love him. I have seen Mr. Forbes Robertson renouncing his heart's desire in more last acts than I should care to count. But I never saw him do it more beautifully than last Saturday evening. Mr. Henry Ainley, in the part of second hero, was as romantically right as ever. And Miss Gertrude Elliott, though she had the air of being rather bewildered than impassioned in the last act, where passion was needed, supplied fully all that was needed in the acts preceding.

MAX BEERBOHM.

DOUBLE STAR.

NO chain, no golden link of it, no ring,
No instrument of state could bind my heart,
Or make it heavy in the evening
Of lonely days when we two dwelt apart.

Ah but through time, the strata of long years
Have piled above and welded us in one,
All our shortcomings, all our hopes and tears,
Gather about us now the day is done.

For those whose hair is brown now ours is white,
Become the marriage bond, our eight-fold ring,
And when we leave them, passing into night
They shall commemorate our journeying.

And we go on, with neither flesh nor bone,
Nor word-obsured thought to stand a bar,
Between us as we speed towards the throne,
Amidst the worlds a tiny double star.

GEORGE IVES.

MOTOR TOURING.

VII. MORE ABOUT DRIVING.

THERE is more than one reason why the owners of motor-cars should be qualified to drive them. For one thing, it promotes efficiency all round, and therefore (paradoxical as it may seem) is of benefit to the public safety. No one can make a habit of driving a motor-car happily or comfortably who has not learned to do it well; therefore it is probable that people who do it for pleasure will do it at least moderately well. For another thing, if it were the custom for owners to drive their own cars we should see less of over-powered and over-sized vehicles on the roads. It is not really pleasant to drive a high-powered car on English roads: the physical strength required, if speed is to be maintained with anything like safety, is considerable, and the strain on the nerves is of a kind that no one would habitually undergo for choice or pleasure. People who always drive their own cars soon find that, if their pleasure is not to be turned into toil, the lowest horse-power consistent with the work the car has to do, and the smallest dimensions consistent with the accommodation it has to provide, are desirable in the interests of their comfort. Moreover, the sense of responsibility is always greater in the man who is driving his own car than in the man who is paid to drive his master's; he is more considerate, more careful, if only of the car; and therefore, provided he knows how to drive at all, his driving is less offensive and more safe for the general public than that of the ordinary chauffeur.

Provided—but it is a large provision. The trouble is that people will insist on driving long before they are qualified to do so. Last week we gave some simple advice as to the best way to learn the very first steps of motor-driving; but the acquisition of that knowledge would no more qualify anyone to drive a motor-car on the public roads than the ability to manipulate steam steering-gear would qualify him to steer a ship safely through a crowded anchorage. The truth is that the mechanics of motor-car-driving are so easy that they tempt everyone to master them, while the psychology of it is so difficult and obscure that many people do not realise its existence. Yet it all expresses itself in three physical qualities—nerve, ear, and touch. It is the acquisition of these, in a greater or less degree, that makes the finished driver; it is the absence of them that renders useless any amount of theoretical knowledge and produces the dangerous blunderer liable at any moment to lose his head, and almost certain to do the wrong thing in the fatal second of an emergency. The possession of these three qualities in their highest development seems to be an accident of nature, or at any rate a result of very earliest training. Thus the child who has been taught not to pick his toys up by the wrong end, and to know the difference between a thing upon which he may and a thing upon which he may not throw his weight, becomes a boy who instinctively handles tools in the right way, and may afterwards be trusted with guns, boats, and motor-cars. But show me a little boy of eight or more years who continues to lift his wooden horse by its tail, in spite of the memory of many tails divorced from their horses, or who takes hold of his model yacht by the mizzen shrouds or the peak halyards, and I will show you a little boy who will never be able to drive a motor-car well. So much the better, you may say; but it is the same little boy who will in after life be very liable to tie double-grannies, move with his feet in dangerous places before he has hold with his hands, and leave a cartridge in his gun; and so much the worse for the little boy's friends.

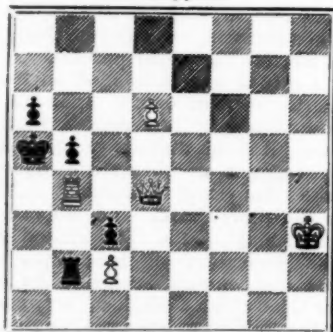
Nerve, ear, and touch can of course be cultivated for the purpose of driving motor-cars, and, as we have said, be attained in a greater or less degree. Nerve, in this slang sense, may be described as the faculty of balancing the mind and nervous organisation against surprise and shock; and as applied to motor-car-driving it means the realisation, in a fraction of a second, that no situation is desperate, and that there is a way out of every difficulty. Ear and touch, but touch especially, will supply the way out of that diffi-

culty; touch is the faculty of seeing with the fingers, of deciding, by pressure on a wheel or a lever, what amount of force must be opposed to their resistance to produce certain results. All these qualities must be exercised naturally, easily, and unconsciously; the pulse must never beat faster, even in awkward moments; confidence, certainty, assurance must all join in the conspiracy against accident and the unexpected. And in all matters connected with the guidance of a rapidly moving vehicle, the eye of course plays an obvious part. That correspondence between brain, eye, and hand, so that conditions are seen, understood, and acted upon instantaneously, which is the basis of all dexterity whether of pianoforte-playing, shooting, boat-sailing, golfing, or motor-car driving, seems to exist naturally in some people, and in others only to be induced by careful training. Some children of three or four years can climb or run on uneven ground, with natural ease; others sprawl and stumble, putting their feet where they did not expect to put them and missing the hold they aimed at with their hands by a wide distance. It is of course easy to train children; but it is not so easy to train the eyes and hands of grown-up persons who have never acquired a really fine co-ordination of their uses. But some degree of certainty and dexterity can be acquired by proper practice; and in driving a motor-car the way to learn is to drive very slowly until a complete confidence is established. The nerves must never be tried or shocked by the sensation that the car is getting out of control; the thing attempted must always be well within the powers that have been acquired; and a very gradual extension of it will lead imperceptibly to fuller control, and as easy a mastery over the whole range of the car's behaviour as was formerly achieved over a part of it.

CHESS.

PROBLEM 44. Specially contributed by R. COLLINSON.

Black 5 pieces.



White 5 pieces.

White to mate in three moves.

Solutions to above will be duly acknowledged.

KEY TO PROBLEM 42: 1. Q-KB8, threatening Q-Q6 ch followed by P×Kt or Q discovered mate.

KEY TO PROBLEM 43: 1. B-Q6.

Last week advantage was taken of the match between Marshall and Tarrasch to discuss and illustrate the style of the former. It is therefore only fitting now to devote an article to his great protagonist. With the possible exception of Lasker he is the greatest exponent of the modern school. There is a peculiar, almost poetic, charm in the simplicity and effectiveness of his play. Where he differs from Marshall is that he does not assume that he can or ought to win every game. Devoid of any gambling instinct, he refuses to take risks or trust in any measure to chance. So long as, in his judgment, a player has not infringed some recognised principle or displayed faulty tactics he is quite satisfied to draw. The reproach that he is therefore a "drawing-master", that he waits only for his opponents' mistakes, is really a disguised compliment to his modesty. As the winner of a record number of

international tournaments he can afford to ignore criticism which obviously emanates from sources incapable of discrimination. Very properly he plays for his own score and has the rare courage to refuse to be intimidated by the clamourings of people who have nothing at stake, but want to see lively games according to their standard, no matter who wins. It cannot be impressed too often that a mistake on the chessboard is not as a rule obvious. Indeed it often takes a long time to demonstrate it when assertion is very easy. When the slightest mistake is suggested his manner of bringing it home to his opponent, however it may be laboured, is terribly effective. Procuring a slight advantage it is so nursed, developed and steered through all the pitfalls and vicissitudes of the game as to compel admiration from those who like subtle, artistic and more especially logical play. He is a true artist in that he produces beautiful pictures on the chessboard without ever straining after effect; his powers of penetration into the mind of his opponent and in the remotest possibilities of the position would do credit to Sherlock Holmes himself; while his play generally is of that order of logical completeness which the conclusion bears to the premisses of the syllogism and in its unfailing accuracy would do credit to a professor of logic.

FRENCH DEFENCE.

| White | Black | White | Black |
|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Tarrasch | Schiffers | Tarrasch | Schiffers |
| 1. P-K4 | P-K3 | 8. P-QB3 | P-QR3 |
| 2. P-Q4 | P-Q4 | 9. Kt-R3 | P-QB4 |
| 3. Kt-QB3 | Kt-KB3 | 10. Kt-B2 | Kt-B3 |
| 4. B-Kt5 | B-K2 | 11. P-KB4 | P×P |
| 5. P-K5 | KKt-Q2 | 12. P×P | B-Q2 |
| 6. B×B | Q×B | 13. P-QKt3 | ... |
| 7. Kt-Kt5 | Kt-Kt3 | | |

Though black appears to have a superior development there is not much prospect of shuffling the pieces into better positions. This is due entirely to the cramping influence of the king's pawn. White's plan is to avoid complications on the queen's side, to which black is already pledged. The last move is merely to prevent Kt-B5.

13. ... R-QB1 14. Q-Q2 ...

To prevent Kt-Kt5 and later B-Kt4. White does not desire the exchange of pieces with no prospects for others with many.

14. ... Castles 16. B-Q3 R-QB2
15. Kt-B3 P-B4 17. Castles K-R1

The last two moves of black simply do nothing. Sometimes this is the lesser evil.

18. K-R1 B-K8 20. P-QR4 ...
19. P-KR3 Kt-R2

Merely to prevent B-Kt4. Usually moves like this and the thirteenth are the cause of a good deal of trouble, owing to the loss of time they involve. But, again, black's position is so cramped that he is unable to take advantage of them, and white proceeds with his plan, having to contend only with ineffective interruption.

20. ... Kt-B3 21. P-KKt4 P-Kt3

If 21...P×P then 22 P×P and white has the open K.R. file to operate on. In addition black's K.P. remains hopelessly weak.

22. P-R5 ...

This is really the beginning of a profound combination, the object being in the first place to give black an opportunity to exchange off the bishop and at the same time drive the knight out of play.

22. ... Kt-B8 24. R-Kt3 P×P
23. R-KKt1 Kt(B6)-R2

Of course, now white was threatening P×P followed by QR-KKt1. Whichever way black recaptured the pawn white would have obtained either the open file or a strong passed pawn.

25. P×P B-Kt4

Black has been allowed to play this move, which he has been hankering after so long, only when it suited white's purpose.

26. P-B5 B×B

With P×P black can win a pawn, but he would have to submit to a terrible bombardment.

27. P-B6 Q-K8 30. Q×R Kt×Q
28. Q×B Kt-Kt4 31. R×Kt ...
29. Kt-KKt5 R-B6

When white played P-R5, allowing black to play ultimately either B-Kt4 or Kt-Kt4, he anticipated obtaining a strong position. Otherwise he would not have made the concession. The sacrifice of the Q is a corollary to the final plan of campaign initiated on the twenty-ninth move.

31. ... P-R3

Black has to guard against R-B7 and R-R3. However, he can only guard against one.

32. R-R3 Q-B6 34. R×P ch K-R1
33. R×P ch K-Kt1 35. Kt-Kt1 ...

Always preparing. White wants to play R-R2 threatening mate.

35. ... Kt-K2

If P×Kt with the idea of playing R-B7,

36. R-R6 ch K-Kt1 37. Kt-Kt2 Q-B6

Black might have gained a move by playing 35 Q-B6. The end, however, would have been the same, brought about a little differently.

38. R-K1 Kt-B3 40. R-K3 Q×R
39. R-Kt6 ch K-R1 41. Kt×Q Resigns

The game has very properly been described as "a gem of the first water".

CORRESPONDENCE.

"MR. BALFOUR'S PALLIUM."

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Christchurch Vicarage, Banbury, Oxon,
26 September, 1905.

SIR,—All who love their country and believe in its mission must thank you for your splendid call to simple common-sense duty under this heading in your issue dated 16 September. Entrusted as we are with a world-wide Empire containing much that is desired, and rightly desired, by our neighbours on the continent, we should be prepared to defend it with the full and complete vigour of the manhood of the nation. Are the units of the nation prepared to render this service? Most certainly they are not prepared or willing to do so at the present time. They are willing to stand twenty deep and shout themselves hoarse, and drink and bet at a football match, but they are not just now disposed to lift with one finger the white man's burden of Empire. Is it their fault? not altogether, I think. It is ours largely, the teachers. People talk about the instinct of patriotism failing in the twentieth century. There is the mistake. Patriotism is not an instinct, it is an acquirement, and has to be taught and learnt like any other acquirement. Patriotism should be taught in our elementary and secondary schools just as Bushido is taught in all the schools of Japan. With our vast possessions dark days are sure to be constantly threatening our country. The hope of the Empire in these dark days must be in the public spirit of her sons. There will be no public spirit unless it is educated in each individual, so let the boys in all our schools be drilled and trained, let a certain number of rifles be issued to each educational authority and the older boys be taught to shoot. Marks for drill and shooting should be given and count in the educational grant. Thus the whole manhood of the nation will be a partially trained reserve for the nation in the ultimate storm and stress to fall back upon, and it will gain in self-respect and discipline. Failing this, I agree with the writer of your article we must have conscription. Some people say that England will never stand it. Well, that or something like it must be undergone if we are to transmit our great inheritance whole and undefiled

to those who succeed us! And I for one refuse to believe that the average Englishman is incapable of feeling and expressing at a certain amount of inconvenience to himself a genuine patriotism, provided that from early years he is properly trained and taught. No Christian man worthy of the name desires war for its own sake, "si vis pacem, para bellum", is however true. Some one is sure to ask what do I, a padre, know about it? I am thankful to say I am a drilled man, I have been a private and was an officer in our auxiliary forces. I passed my school of instruction with the 1st battalion of the Grenadier Guards which is the very least an Englishman ought to do, and

I am, your obedient servant,

F. M. BURTON, LL.D.

Vicar of S. Banbury, and Acting Chaplain
Home Counties Brigade.

AVEBURY CHURCH.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Avebury, Wilts, 25 September, 1905.

SIR,—When the writer of the paragraph on Avebury Church, in your issue of 16 September, gives your readers a version of what an old chest in the church contains he seems to me to give himself away: for how could he know what was inside unless he opened it? A nice thing for anyone to do. The earthenware, glass, and tin flower-holders, to which he gives such select names, are articles which are used by the ladies of the parish when putting up our "tawdry decorations" at festivals and are kept in the chest because the churchwardens and myself consider it the proper place for them. If your correspondent thinks any of them too unsavoury for church decorations we shall be pleased to receive a more suitable supply from him as an atonement for opening the chest. The words "dirty rags" give a delightful finish to a highly moving sentence, but I am unable to find them; and as to the spider-webs, if your correspondent will kindly look behind any piece of furniture placed against a wall in his own house and of equal weight with this chest I have no doubt he will be horrified to discover the web of an artful spider which has hidden there out of the sight of the keen eye of his household.

May I tell your readers the Bishop was here in March, and when leaving was pleased to say how nice everything was and how pleased he had been with his visit? The Archdeacon has also been recently and the Rural Dean was here a little time ago on his periodical visitation to inspect the church and churchyard, and each of them when here complimented me upon the cleanliness and order of everything. Can it be possible that your anonymous correspondent is suffering from some indescribable feelings from which he seeks relief at the Vicar of Avebury's expense? I trow not.

If, Sir, we lock our churches up we are said to be depriving our people of their rights, but if we leave them open we are liable to have our private chests and cupboards pried into by the curious: and the cushions taken out of the pews and thrown about and the bells rung by tourists of questionable reverence. All these things happen at Avebury. Only lately I went into the church and found a dozen excursionists having a good time of it in their own opinion in the roodloft. I asked them to come down and a few days after I put up a barrier, after consultation with the churchwardens, in the staircase leading to it to prevent strangers from going up, but it was broken down a few days afterwards. I put it up again with a request upon it that it should not be removed, but on going into the church the other day I found it broken down again. Suchlike conduct is not what we are entitled to expect in return for the privilege of an open church, but it is a good reason for a vicar keeping his church locked without being considered the offender; nevertheless I shall leave the church open for the devout to pray, and the curious to pry if they think it seemly.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. GILL WARD,

Vicar of Avebury.

[The Vicar of Avebury was given all credit in the SATURDAY REVIEW for keeping the church open. His

indignation that anyone should lift the lid to examine the interior of an old and interesting piece of furniture, which obviously could contain nothing private, does not move us much. The specific points taken in the note in question his letter leaves where they were. We shall be glad to help him to get more decent vessels for the purposes of decoration if he will let us know what he thinks best fitted to that use. Old preserve pots certainly do not commend themselves to us.—
ED. S.R.]

THE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Wootton Vicarage, Bedfordshire, 25 Sept., 1905.

SIR,—Last week you inserted a letter on this subject which however was anonymous, and brought only an indefinite charge against the Commissioners. We shall never arrive at any reformation of that body in that way, and I am surprised that you should have printed a letter of so little value. The only way in which to bring about a reform is for everyone who has suffered in any way at the hands of the Commissioners to bring a direct charge against them, and sign his name, as I do. It is quite time that some inquiry was made as to what goes on in Whitehall Place, for at the present moment the Commissioners are responsible to no one.

Five years ago, in 1900, I received a very favourable offer to purchase the Vicarage Farm belonging to this benefice. Had the sale been carried out the effect would have been that the income of the benefice would have been raised from less than £200 a year, precarious agricultural value, to about £360, the greater portion would have been from money safely invested in the Three per cents. But the Commissioners stopped the sale and left me to pay my expenses out of my own pocket. The reform required here is that a commission to manage such a matter as this should be appointed by the Bishop ad hoc. A local commission would have jumped at this offer.
A. J. FOSTER.

ORGANS AND ORGANISTS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

"Sunnyholt", Acton Vale, W.

24 September, 1905.

SIR,—In your current issue Mr. Runciman writing on the above subject says that there are "few" organists who are also artists, and that they do not constitute the "musical backbone of the country". Now I think it would be interesting to learn from him what class of musicians—if any—can really lay claim to this distinction. Can the average bandmaster or orchestral conductor do so? Certainly, as bandmasters go, they are a very estimable body of men completely devoted to their art; but unfortunately, they move altogether too much "in a groove", and although they undoubtedly possess a very practical knowledge indeed of the "instruments" over which they "preside", can the same be said in all cases of their theoretical knowledge; or have they, as is certainly the case with church musicians as a body, any wider outlook upon musical art and practice as a whole? I certainly think we may take leave to doubt it. The average competent organist not only possesses a practical knowledge of the particular branch he has made his own; but he knows precisely the relationship his own branch of the art occupies in the general musical economy. Then, again, in nine cases out of ten, he is, and has to be, a practical teacher, not only of one or two instruments, but of musical theory, embracing—not indeed a competent knowledge of orchestration—but such necessary subjects as harmony, counterpoint, fugue &c. and the management and training of the voice.

It is, I maintain, this "many-sidedness" of the competent church musician's training that has to be taken into consideration in adjudging him his place in the domain of art. May I ask, of what other worker in musical art can this be truthfully said? I should further like to ask Mr. Runciman if—as I understand him to say—"we are getting on" in the appreciation

of good music (vide your last issue), who are our teachers? No doubt we Londoners possess the undoubted advantage of being able to listen to one or two first-rate orchestras, nearly equal perhaps in efficiency to any now existing on the Continent. Whether this be so or not does not materially affect my argument. But I ask, what percentage of our vast London population ever so much as enters our Queen's Hall, Albert Hall or any other of our musical centres? Nay, how many are in possession of the necessary "shilling" to spend on so valuable a lesson in music? Very few indeed, I fear. Further, it seems to me, if a boy be musically inclined, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the chances are that he will bend his steps—not to those vast palaces of music—but to the nearest parish church, where a really musical service is going on, and where, too, if he but care to do so, he is at liberty to join the church choir. It is there, in my opinion, that the average musical child, in the first instance, imbibes his love of music. Was it not so in the case of Sir John Stainer and his erstwhile fellow-chorister Arthur Sullivan?

It certainly seems to me that, as a rule, in the great majority of cases, the first dawnings of a real and intelligent love of "the beautiful" in music take place in the much-underrated church choir, rather than in the "noise and tumult" of the band or orchestra of the theatre, park or concert-halls.

Yours obediently, OSCAR GAUER.

COINCIDENCES FOR BOZOLATERS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Hilltop House, Brenchley, 25 September.

SIR,—In your review of Mr. Percy Fitzgerald's book it is stated that "Somebody else, according to Mr. Fitzgerald, discovered Sam Weller's song in the 'Rejected Addresses'". Where? I admit that editions of the "Rejected" are many, and that I have not seen them all.

The nearest approach that I can find among them to "Dick Turpin" is "George Barnwell". There is a criminal in the one and there is also moreover a criminal in the other and there is bullets in both. (Bullets with a difference, for while weak George "hadn't the courage to pull it", bold Dick "fired it down his gullet".)

If these be the coincidences which Bozolaters love, I will supply such at three shillings a gross, the Bozolaters paying for ink and paper.

Yours truly, CECIL S. KENT.

THE MERITS OF JOCOSITY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Horsham, 26 September, 1905.

SIR,—The high point of view taken in literary criticism by the SATURDAY REVIEW is very welcome at a time when writers are so much at the mercy of the man who haunts free libraries. But in your critic's fondness for the subtle in humour he has done, I think, some injustice to Mr. J. K. Jerome. In an article headed "Drivel's Dregs" which appeared in an August number that I have just read, your critic condemns Mr. Jerome's humour as vulgar and his seriousness as nauseating. Mr. Jerome is the apostle of high spirits. His humour certainly has no subtlety; it is humour which makes a man laugh, though he might very likely be ashamed, as a responsible, hard-working citizen, to be caught in the act. Possibly it is only bad humour which makes men laugh. Certainly Mr. Jerome's does not give you that cold mental satisfaction peculiar to the highest forms, but it might save your temper on a dull afternoon. Perhaps your critic has that literary depression which is irritated by the humour of high spirits that he cannot share; and maybe his test of a joke is that it shall be subtle enough to forbid the healthy laughter of the "vulgar", and to stimulate the vitiated appetite of the critic.

Yours faithfully,
E. C. PALMER.

REVIEWS.

SHAKESPEARE IN A GENEVAN CLOAK.

"Shakespeare and Holy Scripture." By Thomas Carter. London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1905. 15s. net.

DR. BIRKBECK HILL wrote a book to prove that Johnson was a Whig, and Dr. Carter wrote one equally paradoxical to show that Shakespeare was a Puritan. His present volume is incidentally directed to bring out Shakespeare's familiarity with the Bible in the Genevan version. The Authorised being, of course, out of the question, since Shakespeare's literary work was nearly finished by 1611, the matter lies practically between the Great, or Cranmer's, Bible (1539), the Bishops' Bible (1568), and the Genevan, which ran through a hundred and sixty editions between 1560 and the Great Rebellion. The last-named version, from its size and price, was well adapted for common domestic use, and its violent Protestant character, which caused it to be discountenanced by authority, gave it a further popular zest. On the other hand the official versions were read in church, except where the nonconformist rectors and vicars boldly used the Genevan. But Dr. Carter does not seem to have noticed that the Psalms and liturgical scriptures (the Epistles and Gospels), as well as some other parts of the service, must have been familiar to Englishmen—as the Psalter is to this day—in the Henry VIII. translation.

The dispassionate reader is likely, we think, to be of Mr. Sidney Lee's opinion that Shakespeare's Bible knowledge does not go beyond what a clever boy would be certain to acquire in school or church, rather than to agree with Dr. Furnivall that he is "saturated with the Bible story". Dr. Carter finds scriptural phraseology under every turn of speech. Yet he cites words like "wee'l set thee to schoole to an Ant", though all the versions except the Authorised have "go to the pismire, O sluggard". The poet speaks of charity where the Genevan speaks of love; of our captain Christ where the Authorised has captain, but the Genevan prince and Cranmer lord, of salvation. "The day is almost spent" is one of Dr. Carter's illustrations. But Cranmer and the Genevan have "is farre passed". Delilah's green wit—a common expression—might conceivably have been suggested by the "green withs" of 1611, but scarcely by the "green cordes" of 1560. Dr. Carter will not allow Shakespeare to write "all hail" of his own mere motion. It happens, however, that the words do not occur in the Genevan version. He very properly gives the original spelling of his documents, and so notes that Shakespeare and all the versions except Rheims have ought for owed. This is true of the real Authorised, into which the later printers have introduced many changes in the forms of words—e.g. boil for bile, Jerusalem for Hierusalem, ere for yer, alien for aliant, champaign for champion, brittle for bricke, lose for leese, and fetched for fet. This last word Dr. Carter mistakes for "set". On the same page we fancy he misses the meaning of "motion", a puppet-show.

In some passages, if Shakespeare is influenced by Bible language at all, he echoes Cranmer, not the Genevan. A husband is his wife's "lord"; but the Genevan alone has "Sara called him Syr". "Suffer hell so to prevail" are his words. But 1560 alone has "the gates of hell shall not overcome". We think, however, that a fair case is made out for Shakespeare's greater familiarity with the latter version. Norfolk says that lions cannot change the leopard's spots. Now every translation of Jerem. xiii. 23, except the Genevan, calls the leopard a cat o' mountain. It alone speaks of Jacob's parti-coloured lambs, as Shakespeare does; the Authorised has ring-straked. These are the best test-instances. Of the others on which Dr. Carter relies some are very trifling—thus "at point", rather than "at the point", of death, "peace and be still" for "peace, be still", or the addition of "on" to "having a wedding-garment"; something, surely, even in a great versifier, is metri causâ; but "looked angerly", or "give place to the devil", or "amendment of life" (for penance or repentance), may be reminiscences of the Genevan, and Falstaff's quip about sackcloth and old sack very likely recalled to the

audience the 1560 translation of Ps. xxxv. 13—"I was clothed with a sacke". Bishop Charles Wordsworth points out that the Dauphin's quotation, "Le chien est retourné à son propre vomissement, et la (truie) lavée au boubier" is almost exactly from the Genevan Bible of 1588. Of examples of correspondence with both Cranmer and Geneva as against the later King James version the following will suffice: "Death is to him advantage" (A.V. "to die is gain"); the "field of Golgotha and dead men's skulls" (Cran., Gen., "Golgotha, the place of dead men's skulls"); "these pickers and stealers", which, of course, recalls the Catechism; but the 1611 "not purloining" was in Cranmer and the Genevan, "neither pickers". Isabella's "sicles of the tested gold" is the Genevan marginal spelling of shekels. But surely King Richard's fortunes may have been said to be light when weighed in the balance against Bullingbroke's without any reference to the writing on Belshazzar's wall.

Dr. Carter's book, in fact, though it displays a minute familiarity with the text of the Bible and puts before the student the full materials for judging for himself, is an absurd over-statement. Six out of seven of the instances he gives of Shakespeare's habit of direct or indirect quotation from Holy Scripture are utterly unconvincing. If one person offers to be headman for another, the dramatist must have been thinking of the Church's prayers for S. Peter in prison. He cannot speak of constancy, of death and banishment, of tearing the hair, of learning the weather from the sky, of cutting off a diseased limb, of the sin of suicide, of being undone, of being scourged with rods, of spreading a net, of holding one's peace, of temptation, virtue, sorrow, or almost anything else, but he has some scriptural passage in his mind. Costard's week's fasting on bran and water is a "quip on the text 1 Cor. vii. 5"! Collocations like soul and heart, phrases like "'tis no time", "seeking that shall find their deaths", "worthy death", "God save the king", "in God's name", "sith", "gainst his coming", "sick unto death", "verily", "amen", "the king is moved", "be of good comfort", "mete", "all things necessary", "set teeth on edge", "in the room of", "not a whit", "God forbid", and scores more as common, are quotations. "Happy he whose cloak and cincture can Hold out this tempest" refers to Elijah. When Falstaff says, "Hostess, I forgive thee! go make ready breakfast, love thy husband, cherish thy guests", &c., we are gravely referred to Romans xii.—"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves. If thine enemy hunger, feede him, &c.". Dogberry's famous advice how to deal with a thief is a reminiscence of the totally irrelevant Eccles. xxxvi. 26. The heavens raining odours recall the golden vials full of odours, though the former come down and the latter ascend. In "Timon of Athens" we are told that a man that has no house to put his head in may rail against great buildings. Dr. Carter actually parallels this with the prophecy against the great buildings of the Temple of Him who had not where to lay His head.

If he would blot (to use a good old expression) three-quarters of his book, the rest would be really instructive. Only a defective sense of humour could see in Bottom's assurance that he is not a lion but "as other men are" a parallel to SS. Paul and Barnabas' disclaimer of divine honours, or ingeniously regard Falstaff's "he talked wisely and in the street too" as a "direct quotation" from Prov. i. 20, "Wisdom uttereth her voyce in the streets". Nevertheless, Dr. Carter occasionally gives us happy parallels, some of which, if we remember rightly, escaped Bishop Wordsworth in 1864. Shallow's pious commonplace mixed with talk about bullocks at Stamford fair reminds our author (if it did not remind Shakespeare) of the question in the Apocrypha, "How can hee get wisdom that is occupied in the labours of oxen and talketh but of the breed of bullocks?" Chapman who dispraise the thing that they desire to buy are like the buyer who saith, it is naught. Queen Katharine's words, "The back is sacrifice to the load" recall Isaac carrying the wood on which he was to be offered; and the rash bavin wits, soon kindled and soon burnt, are that laughter of fools which crackles like thorns under the pot. The correspondence between Hamlet's "call me

what instrument you will you cannot play upon me", and Job's "I am as a tabret before them", is obvious to anyone who knows the Bible well. But that Shakespeare knew it as Dr. Carter does, or better than the man in the pew, we are unconvinced.

S. PATRICK.

"The Life of S. Patrick, and his Place in History."
By J. B. Bury. London: Macmillan. 1905. 12s. net.

THE problems connected with the origin of Christianity in the British Islands have generally been handled by specialists of narrow scope, and it is therefore satisfactory to find a scholar distinguished in other fields of historical research devoting to such a figure as that of S. Patrick the careful study and minute examination of detail demanded by any serious attempt to penetrate the darkness of the fifth century. Professor Bury from his post at Trinity College, Dublin, edited the work of the greatest Oxford historian; in his new chair at Cambridge he undertakes the biography of the founder of Irish Christianity, thus showing alike his versatility and his impartiality. A good book on S. Patrick was especially needed, in view of the increasing study of early Irish history, for the student in this province has few sound guides. The Celtic specialist is too often devoid of wide culture, while the greater historians have felt little interest in what seems to them a backwater of history. For while it is true that Irish Christianity from the fifth to the seventh centuries had considerable influence upon the history of the Church, the anarchy which followed the Danish incursions seems to have cut short Irish development on all sides of the national life. The Anglo-Norman conquest was followed by the introduction of great religious orders and the establishment of many houses, but the distinctive features of Celtic Christianity were obliterated. The later controversies between Roman and Anglican views have coloured the treatment given to the career of the first Christian missionaries in Ireland: there are two Archbishops of Armagh, and Cardinal Logue and Dr. Alexander alike claim to represent S. Patrick in his own primal see. From the spirit which is eager to find in Patrick's career an anticipation either of Tridentine theology or of the Synod of the disestablished Church of Ireland Dr. Bury is of course free: in fact he carries his detachment to austere heights: "The business of an historian is to ascertain facts. There is something essentially absurd in his wishing that any alleged fact should turn out to be true or should turn out to be false." Not otherwise did Aristotle remark that no one longs that Troy had not fallen. Yet—assuming for a moment that human nature can reach this arid impartiality—are we to rule out as "absurd" all Churchmen who find in the historic continuity of their Church the source of their activity in the contests of to-day, all writers of distinguished family who take pride or feel regret over the virtues or crimes of their ancestors, all historians who identify themselves with the fortunes of their respective nations? So long as a historian states facts fairly and suppresses nothing that may tell against his prepossessions, we cannot see that he is to be brushed aside because he realises that he is a member of a historic nation or church or family. Professor Bury's standard, in fact, would seem (once more to cite Aristotle) to require a beast or a god.

But it is true that Irish history, church and secular, has been vitiated by the habit of regarding primitive times through eighteenth or nineteenth century glasses. Dr. Bury says that his conclusions "tend to show that the Roman Catholic conception of S. Patrick's work is, generally, nearer to historical fact than the views of some anti-Papal divines". It will be difficult for future writers to reconstruct the quasi-Protestant Patrick who figures in some books. But Dr. Bury might with equal propriety have said boldly that the version of the events of S. Patrick's life current among Roman Catholic writers is very far remote from the results of his study. Thus it is often stated (on late and worthless authority)

that Patrick was the nephew of S. Martin of Tours, and even Archbishop Healy preaches on the association of Patrick and Brigit. Dr. Bury shows that several current errors of this kind are due to the uncritical acceptance of an impossible date (493 A.D.), which necessitates a life of 120 or even 132 years, for the death of Patrick.

The sources are meagre, and Dr. Bury's examination of them is masterly. We have in Latin an Epistle to Coroticus (a British chieftain of Strathclyde) and a "Confession" which are almost unquestionably the work of Patrick, both documents of great interest. An Irish hymn, "S. Patrick's Breastplate", a translation of which figures in the Church of Ireland Hymnal to-day, is very probably authentic: it is at least a fine poem of very early date. Three "dicta Patricii" and certain Canons seem to Dr. Bury to be very possibly genuine. A Latin hymn ascribed to Secundinus, one of Patrick's followers, may also be genuine. But these documents do not carry us far towards the elucidation of disputed points. Literature about Patrick really begins late in the seventh century, more than two hundred years after his death. A series of rough notes by Tirechan and a Life of the Saint by Muirchu, both Latin works of this period, form the first attempts to tell the story of his mission. They are followed by a number of "Lives", culminating in the Irish "Tripartite Life", an uncritical work full of miracles dating perhaps from the eleventh century, edited by Dr. Whitley Stokes in the Rolls Series.

Whether Patrick existed, and whether he was one, two or three persons, are questions which have been seriously debated. He has not fared quite as badly as S. Brigit, who is turned by some critics into a fire-goddess of the heathen Irish. But whereas some writers hold that there was a S. Patrick and a Sen Patrick (or Old Patrick), both distinct from the Palladius who is known to have been sent to Ireland by Pope Celestine in 431, others amalgamate the three figures. Professor Zimmer holds that the legendary S. Patrick is a fiction founded on the real career of a supremely unimportant person, one Patricius or Palladius, who conducted an unsuccessful mission in Wicklow. Ireland having become Christianised by means unknown turned this failure into a national saint some two centuries after, and since the Romanising South wished to bring the independent North into subjection to the Roman See, Leinster made a present of Patrick-Palladius to Ulster and agreed to pretend that he had founded Armagh! To substantiate this theory Zimmer has brought his great erudition to bear on the materials, and by handling the "Confession" (which he accepts as authentic) with a remarkable absence of common-sense has made out a plausible case. It may be said with some positiveness that Dr. Bury has once for all demolished the Zimmer theory. He regards Sen Patrick as a myth, due to the abnormal life attributed to the historic Patrick, and makes it fairly certain that Palladius and Patrick were different persons. Dr. Bury extends to Professor Zimmer's most strained arguments a courtesy which he denies to the late Mr. Olden: apparently a learned professor may advance the wildest theories when a country clergyman must not make a slip. Dr. Bury is justified in criticising and rectifying Mr. Olden's statements, but he shows a strange animus against a man who did some good work in his day, and whose translation of the works of S. Patrick (ignored in this book) is extremely useful. When Mr. Olden in another work makes a mistake of twelve years in the date of the barbarian invasion of Gaul (no other error is cited) "his whole argument and narrative are vitiated by his astonishing ignorance of Imperial history". Yet Dr. Bury himself is not impeccable. He accepts the legend that Patrick baptized the sons of Brian, Connaught princes, at a date which must have been later than 438. Now the principal of these was one Duach mac Brian, who in particular is said to have befriended the Saint. But in an acute attempt to unravel Connaught chronology Dr. Bury in an appendix comes to the conclusion that Duach mac Brian died in 424 or 425. Oddly enough he does not, in his text, mention Duach by name when speaking of the baptism of the sons of Brian. This, we take it, is an accident. But Mr. Olden, for all his astonishing ignorance, never

so far as we know happened to suppress in his text an important name the mention of which would have revealed that text and appendix were at variance.

Dr. Bury has adopted a peculiar method which makes his book one of the most readable volumes ever written on a difficult subject, but which has disadvantages of its own. He writes exceedingly well a straightforward biography of his subject, and consigns to 160 pages of appendices in small print all his critical matter and most of the evidence on which he bases his narrative. The student is compelled at every page to turn to the end, and must often read passages in three different excursions if he would understand the text. But the lazy reader certainly has his path made easy, and perhaps Dr. Bury's plan produces the greatest good to the greatest number. We could wish that he had gone more deeply into the condition of pagan Ireland: what he writes is admirable so far as he goes. But little can be ascertained about the religion of the country which Patrick set out to convert. We cannot here discuss the various considerations which must be taken into account in any endeavour to elucidate the life of Patrick, but may briefly state the main events according to Dr. Bury, whose work, on conservative lines, must command general assent. Patrick was born in 389 at a place called Bannavem taberniæ, certainly in Britain, perhaps in Glamorgan (for Dr. Bury rejects the Dumbarton theory on not very convincing grounds). His father was a Roman decurion and a Christian deacon. Carried as a slave into Ireland after an Irish raid on Britain, the boy tended sheep in Connaught (not Ulster) and meditated on religion. He succeeded in escaping to Gaul, and took up his abode at the monastery of Lerins, the island opposite Cannes. After a visit to his kinsmen in Britain, he went to Auxerre, where he received ordination from Germanus. After the death of Palladius, Celestine's missionary to Ireland, Patrick was allowed to achieve his ambition and was consecrated bishop for the conversion of the island of his captivity. Landing probably in Wicklow, he worked in Meath, where the High King Loigaire came under his influence, and in Connaught. He visited Rome (this is very doubtful) about 442, and on his return established his influence in Ulster, where he founded Armagh. After travelling through much of Ireland he died at Saul (not at Downpatrick) in 461. Dr. Bury is inclined to accept the legend which associates Patrick with the codification of the laws of Ireland in the *Senchus Mor*.

The Irish Church in the sixth and seventh centuries certainly became out of touch with Rome; she had a distinctive date for Easter, and a peculiar tonsure. We know that S. Columba conveyed these insular ideas to Scotland, whence they passed to the North of England; there they were finally overcome by Catholic usage after a sharp struggle. But Dr. Bury holds that in all matters Patrick looked to Rome, and that after his death the insular spirit prevailed against his teaching. The evidence is meagre; certain texts may prove—according to the view taken of their date—either that Patrick held certain opinions or that a later age attributed them to him and tampered with the documents. The question turns mainly on the relations between the fifth-century Gallican Church and Rome, and here Dr. Bury speaks with authority. He admits that the Patrician liturgy, derived from Gaul, had an Eastern character. The multiplication of bishops without sees, and the ascendancy of monasticism, remarkable in the sixth and seventh centuries, Dr. Bury regards as post-Patrician.

He is at his best when describing the position of Rome in fifth-century Europe. Ireland had never been conquered, but the prestige of the Imperial city had weight even in the far west. Patrick made Latin the ecclesiastical language of Ireland, and brought the island into the community of the Latin world, so that during the next two centuries Irish churchmen were able to play a great part in Europe. Dr. Bury might have illustrated his point by the words of Columbanus to Boniface IV.: after speaking of "the native liberty of my race" the Irishman says "however great and glorious Rome may be, it is the chair of S. Peter which makes her great and glorious among us".

TRIFLES ABOUT BEN NEVIS.

"Twenty Years on Ben Nevis." By Wm. T. Kilgour. Paisley: Gardner. 1905. 2s. 6d.

THE history of most public observatories and of similar scientific institutions is a record of steady growth from small beginnings. The new problems which the progress of science constantly reveals, the increasing complexity of scientific apparatus and the growing specialisation of knowledge create a constant demand for new buildings, for new instruments and for additions to the staff. On the other hand increased interest in natural science and belief in its importance as a factor in national well-being, together with the growth of private and public wealth, have in general provided for at least the partial satisfaction of such demands, either from public resources or from the generosity of individuals. The nation has far less difficulty to-day in maintaining the magnificent buildings, the elaborate and delicate instruments and the large staff of trained astronomers and highly skilled mechanics of the present Royal Observatory at Greenwich, than had Charles II. in providing the first Astronomer Royal with a poor unfurnished building, a miserable pittance and a "silly, surly labourer" as sole assistant.

The meteorological observatory on the top of Ben Nevis has had a less fortunate existence. Founded in 1883 by private munificence, and dependent on subscriptions for nearly two-thirds of its annual expenses, the observatory was closed after twenty-one years of activity. The inquiry which was held prior to this disappointing result revealed much difference of opinion among those best qualified to judge as to the work that had been done and might be expected in the future; and when it became evident that no increased Treasury grant would be forthcoming the directors decided to abandon the continual effort of raising the necessary funds by annual subscriptions. Public interest in the novelty of an observatory on the highest mountain in the country had probably waned, and subscribers may have been affected also by some not unnatural scepticism as to the value of the continued accumulation of vast masses of meteorological data, which seem as yet to contribute so little towards either the formation of scientific theory or the practical prediction of weather.

Nevertheless the experiment was so remarkable that an interesting account of the observatory and of life there might well have been written from more than one point of view. A competent meteorologist with some power of exposition might have been able to give an intelligible account of the particular problems which the observatory was intended to solve, or at least to elucidate, of the special advantages of the position and of the result actually achieved. A writer who possessed a real feeling for nature and a capacity for putting his feelings into words might have given us some insight into the beauties of light and sky, of snow and storm that must have presented themselves to a permanent resident on Ben Nevis.

Such a book might well have been written, and if written would have been well worth reading, but it would have been very different from the book before us. Mr. Kilgour has next to nothing to tell us of scientific interest, though he gives a little information about the routine of observation, some isolated descriptions of meteorological phenomena, and a poor chapter on the animal and vegetable life seen near the observatory. He makes some attempts at describing the scenery, and speaks more than once of the impressiveness of the situation and of the solitude, but entirely fails to make the reader feel this impressiveness. "The visitors afforded a never-ending source of conversation" to Mr. Kilgour and his fellow-residents on Ben Nevis. Even without this illuminating remark we should have inferred that his main interest was neither in science nor in nature, but in the trivial incidents which broke the monotony of routine work and in gossip and foolish jokes about visitors and colleagues. Such things may have helped to enliven the author's life on Ben Nevis, but we see no sort of justification for printing them. The chapter which the author seems to have written with the greatest zest consists of extracts from the visitors' book kept at the observatory, with

humorous comments of his own on the silly witticisms which visitors had perpetrated. We can only conclude by expressing a hope that Mr. Kilgour's friends may have sufficient influence to prevent him from ever again writing such a book.

NEW LIGHT ON KNOX.

"John Knox and the Reformation." By Andrew Lang. London: Longmans. 1905. 10s. 6d. net.

"John Knox, the Hero of the Scottish Reformation." By Henry Cowan. London: Putnams. 1905. 6s.

"John Knox &c." By John Glasse. London: Black. 1905. 2s. 6d. net.

THE assumption that John Knox was born in 1505 is the motive for the appearance of three new books on his career by authors who agree in disputing that date. They agree also in the general view that the life of John Knox must be described in terms of apology.

The work of Dr. Glasse is unpretentious, consisting of lectures delivered to an audience which on so sacred a subject could not be critical; nevertheless the tone is patronising, and the lecturer betrays an uncomfortable feeling that too candid an account of his hero's career would shock a twentieth-century neophyte. We are surprised at the freedom with which Dr. Glasse refers to the Holy Scriptures—a freedom which the Presbyterians of old days would not have tolerated. We have however read this book with interest, as exhibiting in a pleasant way the opinions of a modern "placed" minister about the founder of his Church and its fundamental tenet. Dr. Cowan's work is that of a professor unable to apprehend the spirit of a religion outside his sphere of thought. That the ancient religion was false and idolatrous; that the parliaments which enacted observance of its tenets were steeped in superstition; that the real Divine Truth was revealed by the mouths of Calvin, John Knox and his fore-runners; all this of course is so well established that no argument is needed, but even so, accurate quotation of authorities is not undesirable. Dr. Glasse wisely omits all reference to records; Dr. Cowan feels their necessity. He tells us (page 52) that as recently as 1541 (the Gospel Light having already dawned abroad) a statute of James V.'s last parliament imposed the penalty of death on all who questioned the Pope's spiritual infallibility. This astounding statement certainly required proof, and the reference is (observe the order) to Acts of Parliament ii. 370, and Tytler's "History of Scotland" v. 285. We have referred accordingly and find that the second authority quoted makes the statement on the authority of the first, and that the first proves nothing remotely approaching it. It is perfectly clear that the Professor copied the statement of the historian without verifying his reference. It is also clear that the Professor of Church History does not know enough of the religious thought of the period he discusses to be aware that the statement was, and is, astounding. Dr. Cowan however supplies us on page 230 with conclusive proof of his capacity to understand Catholicism. We are gravely told in extenuation of a persecuting enactment against Roman Catholics—which we are glad to find Dr. Cowan ashamed of—that what Parliament made penal in 1559-1560 was not Roman doctrine as a whole but "one particular external manifestation of Romanism as saying or hearing mass"; and the severe measures which the Reformers approved against mass-mongers must be judged in the light of the fact that adultery, perjury, and blasphemy were *also* offences whose appropriate punishment was considered to be death. That the Professor could not even when revising his proofs see the outrageous character—not we presume intentional—of the latter sentence, and the absurdity of the former, is an example of the manner in which history appears to be taught in a Presbyterian University. If a Catholic bishop objected to the young men of his flock attending such a lecturer he would of course exhibit bigotry, but we take leave to advise any Scottish student of religious belief, who

really desires to view his subject impartially, to remember that even facts may be obscured when marshalled by those who explain the beliefs of former times in terms of the present. Could anyone, not accustomed to a pulpit, have imagined the possibility of a sixteenth-century penal enactment against those who denied Papal infallibility?

Of these three books Dr. Andrew Lang's alone indicates original research, and it would command universal admiration (out of Scotland general assent) if it were not for a satirical style, which hardly befits history. The Life of Knox is after all a very serious matter, closely related to what a large number, perhaps a majority, of Protestants believe to be Divine religion. Dr. Lang has the dislike of Knox which every artist must feel, and this dislike (more strictly contempt) is so obvious that it minimises the effect his very forcible argument would have on any unbiassed mind. It is established beyond doubt that Knox was sincere in his hatred of the religion taught him in his youth, and that he became convinced of the truth of Calvinistic teaching without hope of pecuniary reward. But what Dr. Lang proves, and our other authors admit, is that Knox was quite intolerant of any opinion but his own; that he found excuses for and indeed approved private assassination of "idolaters"; that he addressed Queens and Emperors with insolence, and that he incited others to incur dangers which he did not incur himself. We do not propose to discuss either the work or the character of John Knox. To attempt to do so within the limits of a single article would be absurd. We notice rather the minor facts and sidelights exposed by Dr. Lang, three of which are valuable: (1) That Knox helped to decoy from her religion the wife of a fervent Catholic and married their daughter without apparently any passionate love, a proceeding which would have been denounced in Knoxian language if the positions had been reversed; (2) that although he attributed in his History the destruction of the church at Perth to the rabble, he wrote at the time of the occurrence to an intimate friend describing the destruction as the work of the brethren; (3) that when at Dieppe, hesitating to incur the danger which his friends incurred in Scotland, but petitioning Queen Elizabeth, whom he had grossly insulted in intolerable language, for permission to pass through England, the following estimate of his character was written by the chief pastor of the Genevan Congregation in Paris: "I fear that Knox may fill Scotland with his madness. He is said to have a boon companion at Geneva whom we hear that the people of Dieppe have called to be their minister. If he be infected with such opinions for Christ's sake pray that he be not sent".

When Knox was at Geneva there were bitter quarrels, when at Dieppe there were revolts, when in Scotland there was iconoclasm. Whenever the man approached charity veiled her face and fled, and on his departure desolation reigned amid the ruins of Christian art. He sowed the seed which blossomed into the religion of the Covenanters, and while chronicling the conduct of Knox towards his sovereign and such of his countrymen who preferred the ancient way, Dr. Lang skilfully unfolds the real meaning of his teaching, or shall we not rather, with the French pastor, say his madness? On one point we differ from all three authors. We do not think it proved that Knox was ever ordained a priest. He spoke of himself as having been a minister of the altar, and he was a notary apostolic, but neither fact seems enough to establish priesthood.

TURKISH POETRY.

"A History of Ottoman Poetry." Vol. IV. By the late E. J. W. Gibb. Edited by E. G. Frowne. London: Luzac. 1905. 21s.

ANOTHER volume has appeared of what is likely to remain the standard work on Ottoman poetry, so far at least as Western readers are concerned. The author reached in it his fourth period, to which he gave the title of "Transitional". The poets with whose productions he deals belonged to the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth, and with

them Ottoman poetry took a fresh start and inspiration. The poets of an earlier epoch had derived much of their inspiration and most of their form from Persia: even the language in which they wrote was a Persianised Turkish. But with the beginning of the eighteenth century a new school arose. Persia had fallen into decadence and its culture was in consequence discredited, while Europe still stood apart from Turkey and was regarded by the Mohammedan Turk with hostile or suspicious eyes. In this failure of foreign models, the Turkish poet sought his inspiration in Turkey itself: the life of Constantinople became the subject-matter of his verses, and the new words or expressions which he needed were found in the language of his own countrymen.

The condition of the Ottoman empire was favourable to this new departure. The era of foreign conquest and expansion was ended, but Turkey had not yet become "the sick man" of European politics. The Turk was still proud of his past, confident in his present, and supremely contemptuous of those who belonged to another race and another creed. The treasury was not yet emptied, and Ahmed III. was able to enjoy to the full his love of display and magnificence. The display, however, was far from barbaric. Mr. Gibb says truly that the Sultan was "a refined and appreciative lover of all things beautiful, who found his chief delight in laying out enchanting gardens, building gay kiosques and pavilions, and organising brilliant fêtes". A picture of the sumptuous life of the court and its satellites, of the decoration of its palaces and the costly dresses of those who thronged them is given in the letters of Lady Mary Wortley Montague whose visit to Turkey took place just at this time. Aspiring poets naturally found a ready welcome at such a court and "lavished all the wealth of their Eastern imaginations in extolling the glories of the great Sultan and his ministers". Foremost among them was Ahmed Nedim, the singer of love and wine, whose verses are usually hardly consonant with our ideas either of a Turk or of a Mohammedan. Here, for example, is Mr. Gibb's translation of one of his "rubá'is":—

"Thy glances, O cup-bearer, overbore me,
They darkened all the face of earth before me.
God on thee! prate not of the wine, I pray thee;
Those drooping eyes wrought all that hath come
o'er me!"

The Sultan and his court alike perished in disaster. Ahmed himself was murdered, the treasury was exhausted, and the age of luxury was over at all events for a while. But the poetic movement which had been started during its continuance survived the conditions which had seen its rise, and from henceforth for more than a hundred years Ottoman poetry followed the path that had been marked out for it. It remained national and therefore realistic, drawing its inspiration from the bazaars and houses of Constantinople and reflecting the life of a city which had become the centre of the Mohammedan world. Beligh, who died in the middle of the eighteenth century and seems to have been of Albanian origin, went to the lower orders for the subjects of his verse, and found in the sons of a shoemaker, a tailor and a barber the heroes of some of his most famous poems.

One of the latest of the Transitional school was 'Akif Pasha who died at Alexandria in 1848. The new era of Turkey had already begun, and 'Akif's energy was largely spent in struggling against it. The sound of reform was in the air; the Janizaries had been destroyed, and the Crimean war was near at hand. Western influences could no longer be excluded from Constantinople, and a new race of poets was springing up who studied French literature and modelled their thoughts and style upon French masters. The elegy written by 'Akif upon the death of his grand-daughter forms a fitting ending to the history of the Transitional school. Its pathos cannot fail to strike us even in a translation:

"Ne'er shall I forget thee, O my child most fair;
Not though months and seasons and years may pass
away.

Bitter is thine absence, hard for me to bear;
Shall thy sweet words ever cease with me to stay?

O'er thy frame of silver changedness hath crept;
Hath thy radiant forehead those dark brows still kept?
By thy golden tresses is the black earth swept?
Lie the locks I once caressed now in disarray?
Hath the sphere its cruel ruthlessness displayed?
Hath it bid thy rosy cheek's blooming beauty fade?
And, oh! are they turned to dust, are they all
decayed,—

Those dear hands so soft and white wherewith I used
to play?"

With this fourth volume Mr. Gibb's manuscript practically comes to an end. His editor, Professor Browne, expresses his apprehension that the following two volumes, for which he alone will be responsible, may be unworthy of their predecessors. He need, however, have no misgivings: the work could not have fallen into more competent hands.

NOVELS.

"Shakespeare's Christmas." By "Q" (A. T. Quiller-Couch). London: Smith, Elder. 1905. 6s.

The first and title-story of this collection leaves a confused impression on the mind, and with one or two exceptions the remainder are all marred by over-implicitness—a first perusal is by no means sufficient, a second elucidates some of the obscurities of the narrative, and a third would doubtless reward the patient reader with a definite impression of the author's intention. The material and setting of each story are striking and original, the manner of narration attractive and ingenious, yet the general effect is disappointing and unsatisfactory. The development of the plot seems over-abrupt and insufficiently explained, the effect of inevitability is wanting. The extreme difficulty of compressing within the limits of the short story, the necessary descriptions of scenery, persons, and motives of action, characteristic dialogue and development of plot, explains the comparative failure of "Q", admirable in tone and design as many of his stories are. For in spite of its obscurity "Shakespeare's Christmas", in which, by the way, the poet plays a less important part than his father, is a very picturesque piece of work. The suggestion of horror and mystery is cleverly mingled with the gay boisterousness of the players' supper in the suspicious tavern of the Bank-side. The most straightforward of the remaining tales is "Ye Sexes give Ear", an amusing legend of how certain Amazonian Cornish fisherwomen triumphed over a "Methody" missionary who preached the Pauline doctrine of a covered head, and submission to husbands.

"Red of the Feud." By Halliwell Sutcliffe. London: Werner Laurie. 1905. 6s.

"Red of the Feud" is, as one would guess by its title, full of fighting, the great axe of young "Red" Ratcliffe, a Siegfried-like hero, drips scarlet with the blood of his hereditary enemies, the Waynes, in nearly every chapter, and is wielded with unvarying and miraculous success. One against three, against ten, against thirty, he is unconquerable, though to judge from the past history of the Ratcliffes their cause is the less righteous. Yet the narrative of his wondrous achievements is somewhat flat and heavy, it lacks the power to thrill, to stir the imagination, to win sympathy. The "feud" seems a tiresome, senseless, bloodthirsty piece of business, the reiteration of the word itself on each page becoming wearisome and irritating. The best parts of the book are the descriptions of the moorland scenery, the mystery and stealth of the peaty waters and the treacherous bog, "the breeze-blown yellow of the bracken", the billows of purple ling, the colour and atmosphere of the wild heath and shifting morass. Mr. Sutcliffe's style is forcible and picturesque, if a trifle mannered, after the usual fashion of writers of romance—who by queer

inversions, Shakespearean epithets, and various intricacies and turns of speech, struggle to give an "old-world" flavour to their obviously modern efforts of imagination.

"The Quakeress." By Max Adeler. London: Ward, Lock. 1905. 6s.

This is a somewhat hackneyed story, concerned with Abby Woolford and her lovers George Fotherly, the strong and earnest Northern Quaker, and Clayton Harley, the gay young Marylander with a past. The period of the story is the Civil War, and the passions of the time have a part in the development of the story, which runs for some not altogether logical reason to a tragical close. Well told and not without interest in much of its characterisation—and some distinct humour in the portrayal of the Rev. Dr. Ponder and his devoted wife—"The Quakeress" deserves a welcome from those in search of simple if conventional fiction.

"The Passport." By Richard Bagot. London: Methuen. 1905. 6s.

Mr. Richard Bagot has written a stirring melodrama of love and intrigue. He has laid on his colours with a trowel. He gives us the lovely maiden wooed by the handsome lover whose suit is forbidden by the stern stepmother. He tells of wicked priests, cynical and scheming villains, faithful servants, secret hiding-places and sliding panels—all the stock-in-trade of regulation melodrama. But he writes well and picturesquely and his characterisation, although totally devoid of subtlety, abounds in cleverness. The scene of the book is laid in Rome and the "local colouring" is admirable.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"Correct Bridge." By Henry A. Agacy. London: Simpkin, Marshall. 1905. 2s.

The literature of bridge is increasing at an alarming rate and it becomes difficult for the ardent player to keep pace with it. There are almost as many instructors as players. The wise player will do well not to pin his faith blindly to everything he is told. Among the multitude of counsellors in whom there is wisdom Mr. Henry A. Agacy holds a notable position. The keynote of his admirable little book is common sense. Like the wise physician who instead of treating symptoms aims at removing the cause of disease, he realises the futility of instruction in conventions, tactics and the like until the player has mastered the fundamental conceptions of the game. Mr. Agacy holds—and holds rightly as those who have had wide experience in various directions will agree—that the average player exhibits absolute ignorance or, at best, insufficient appreciation of certain points. On these points the author gives instruction in a clear, broad-minded and illuminating fashion. Especially noteworthy are his remarks on the discard in a No Trump call. No one will be found to disagree with the general principle that the discard should be regulated by the special circumstances of each particular hand, but in practice, unless one is very sure of one's partner, the necessity for agreement as to discard from strength or weakness is universally felt. The most that can be said for Mr. Agacy's contention that there should be no definite convention on this point is that it is a counsel of perfection. In writing of the game with trumps the author exhibits occasionally the predilections of the practised whist-player, but no one can go far wrong who lays to heart his precepts. Players old and new alike will gain from the reading of the book a firm grasp of the principles of the game.

"Gubbio, Past and Present." By Laura McCracken. Illustrated by Katherine McCracken. London: Nutt. 1905. 5s. net.

This painstaking work does not make exactly exhilarating reading for the study: the historical chapters suffer by condensation, the descriptive by treatment too much savouring of the guide-book. But outside the study, in Gubbio itself, Miss McCracken's book will prove a real boon to the traveller unable to read Italian. Umbria is daily more and more overrun, and each of her little cities is well worth a volume. The book is full of information that may be read with profit at the street corner, in palaces, in churches, and information that may nowhere else be found in English. The complete absence of chapter and verse to the somewhat scantily cited authorities is to be regretted, and a bibliography of Gubbio would have been a welcome addition. We should like to know who is responsible for the statement that the "rastrello" in the arms

(Continued on page 444.)

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MANSION HOUSE STREET (opposite the Mansion House), LONDON, E.C.

Quinquennial Bonus Distribution, 1905.

In the Valuation the future Rate of Interest was estimated at
2½ PER CENT. ONLY.

The Assurance Fund on 31st December, 1904, was - £4,914,453
The Net Liability under Assurance and Annuity Contracts - - - - - 3,937,646

SURPLUS (including £490,401 brought forward) - **£976,807**

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Head Offices: LONDON—66 and 67 CORNHILL, E.C.

Extracts from the Forty-second Annual Report.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| New Assurances, 1904 | ... | ... | ... | ... | £695,848 |
| Net Premium Income... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 293,460 |
| Funds Increased during the Year by | ... | ... | ... | ... | 127,693 |
| Total Funds | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,000,477 |

NINETY PER CENT. OF PROFITS TO NEW POLICYHOLDERS.

W. P. CLIREHUGH, General Manager.

ROCK LIFE ASSURANCE CO., 15 New Bridge Street, London, E.C.

CENTENARY YEAR, 1905.

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Personal Accident. Burglary. Workmen's Compensation Insurance.

GEORGE S. CRISFORD, Actuary.
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EDWARD W. BROWNE, Manager.

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Life Office. A.D. 1797.

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ATLAS ASSURANCE

FIRE. COMPANY, LIMITED. **LIFE.**
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
The Manchester Fire Office.

Head Office: 92 CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C.
Manchester Office: 98 KING STREET.

Income £1,200,000.
TOTAL SECURITY FOR POLICY-HOLDERS
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Claims Paid exceed £26,000,000.

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(Lives) Established 1807 (Annuities)



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CITY—41 THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.
Branches—Eagle Insurance Buildings in
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cent. of the Premiums paid during the Quinquen-
nium; being a return of one and a-half Premiums.
The Company's **Debtenture Policies**,
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pating Class, at very moderate rates.

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50 REGENT STREET, W., and 14 CORNHILL, E.C., LONDON.
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Founded 1848.

TEN YEARS' PROGRESS.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|---|---|---|-------------|
| Annual Income | 1894 | - | - | - | £1,012,786 |
| | 1904 | - | - | - | £1,348,659 |
| Assets | 1894 | - | - | - | £5,536,859 |
| | 1904 | - | - | - | £9,014,532 |
| Payments under Policies | 1894 | - | - | - | £12,173,703 |
| | 1904 | - | - | - | £20,474,666 |

Head Office: ST. MILDRED'S HOUSE, POULTRY, LONDON, E.C.
JAMES H. SCOTT, General Manager and Secretary.
THE GRESHAM LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

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| | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|-------------|
| ANNUAL INCOME | - | - | - | - | £4,182,578 |
| TOTAL FUNDS | - | - | - | - | £13,062,125 |

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LIBERAL POLICY CONDITIONS.

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ACCIDENT. FIDELITY GUARANTEE. BURGLARY.

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|------------|
| Total Assets... | ... | ... | £4,393,943 |
| Annual Revenue ... | ... | ... | £1,177,773 |

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of Gubbio were "the insignia" of Godfrey de Bouillon and added in 1098. The rastrello is the Guelphic chief, and came into Italy with the first Angevin king of Naples. It is utterly misleading to say that Francesco Maria II., the last Duke of Urbino, bequeathed by will "his entire possessions to the Church". His personal and allodial possessions he bequeathed to his grand-daughter, Vittoria della Rovere, wife of Ferdinand II. of Tuscany; his State was not his to bequeath, being a fief of the Holy See which reverted to the overlord in 1631 under the terms of the investiture. But the book is accurate on the whole. Miss Katherine McCracken's drawings are entirely charming.

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For this Week's Books see page 446.

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REPORT of the SEVENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS, held in Johannesburg, on Wednesday, 23rd August, 1905.

In moving the adoption of the Directors' Report, Balance Sheet, and the Revenue and Expenditure and Appropriation Accounts, the Chairman (Mr. Alphonse Reyersbach) said—

GENTLEMEN.—In presenting the Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure and Appropriation Accounts to you to-day, it gives me special pleasure, in the absence of your Chairman, to have to reveal to you a very satisfactory state of affairs.

When last we met the labour problem was approaching solution, and although to-day a temporary scarcity is being experienced, in spite of an approximate importation of 45,000 coolies, we can now fairly call this question satisfactorily settled. Taking into consideration that the expansion on these fields in all directions has entailed a steadily increasing demand upon the available force of unskilled labourers, I contend that the resorting to imported labour must be considered an indisputable and absolutely necessary step.

Our Company has, through this importation, directly benefited quite considerably, and of the 120-stamp mill erected an average of over 86 stamps were dropping during the twelve months under review, with results more fully explained in the General Manager's Report. In order to obviate undue criticism, which has of late been rather freely indulged in, consequent, no doubt, upon adverse Money Market conditions, it may be as well for me to state that your mine has throughout been fairly worked, due regard being had to the tonnages developed of the different reefs. We have in the section of the Rand where your property is situated three reefs, namely, Main Reef, Main Reef Leader, and South Reef, of which 14, 34, and 52 per cent. respectively, have approximately been milled during the year under review.

Reverting to the accounts, you will see that they have been compiled in the clearest possible manner; the Balance-sheet shows a slight alteration by closing accounts which have, in reality, nothing to do with the year we have to deal with. Part of the Working Capital of the Subsidiary Companies is employed by your Company at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, and this account has been increased during the year by £1,500. The amount standing to the credit of our bankers has been reduced by over £74,000; and whilst last year we carried forward a loss of £34,371, this year we show on the right side of the account an amount of £49,334. Turning to the assets, you will find that buildings, machinery, plant and shafts all show increases, which denote substantial progress.

Coming to the Revenue and Expenditure Accounts, it will be seen that whilst we made on last year's working a profit of only £7,300, this year £82,300 were earned, a feature upon which I think you will agree your Board, with their Technical Advisers and General Manager, can justly feel proud. It is a thankless task to forecast, but I feel quite confident that much better results still are in store for us.

Capital expenditure can now be called finished, but with a new and highly up-to-date plant in full working order that is not worth special mention. Shaft-sinking, which, however, is Capital expenditure, must naturally be continued. During the year 562 ft. in all have been sunk in the three shafts, at a capital cost of approximately £8,925, or £15 17s. 6d. per foot, and your Board have decided upon a policy which I think you will readily endorse. The idea is to continue the incline shafts, with all possible speed, into the ground of the two subsidiaries—Main Reef East and Main Reef Deep—and then open up these two deep-level Companies by means of drives, cross-cuts, &c., and, generally, thoroughly explore their claim areas. These two Companies will temporarily pay the parent Company for the work exclusively undertaken on their behalf until such time as the outcrop Company really requires the lower portions of the shafts for the exploitation of its own ground. By this means the subsidiaries will save the expenditure of three new shafts, which would have to be sunk to approximate depths of 1,850 ft., 1,950 ft., and 1,450 ft. respectively, which in money would come to roughly £150,000. The existing shafts are so laid out that all rock from the subsidiaries can be hauled through them, which will possibly mean the widening of the shafts now serving the parent Company only. Additions can then be made by which the rock from the subsidiaries can be separately treated in the existing crushing station and mill.

Although the General Manager states in his report that the tonnage of payable ore has decreased by 23,642 tons, of an average value of 10'4 dwt., against an average value of 11 dwt. last year, it is by no means to be overlooked that the total ore reserves for the year under review have increased by 35,688 tons. The further fact that our total ore reserves show a decline of 0'9 dwt. is counterbalanced by the very appreciable reduction in working costs, which for the year ending 30th June, 1905, were 23s. 3d., as against 25s. 5d. for the previous year, a reduction of 2s. 2d. per ton. Of all the heavy items in the table analysing the working costs, savings have been effected with one or two exceptions: Native wages and native labour supply. The former work out to 5s. 6'3d., or 23'464 per cent. for this year, as against 5s. 4'14d., or 21 per cent. of the working costs for last year, and in the case of native labour supply this year's costs were 10'540d., or 3'718 per cent., as against 6'842d., or 2'24 per cent. per ton milled for last year. You will agree that these are material alterations, which go to prove that we are constantly endeavouring by feeding and housing this labour better to make their lot a happier one. Altogether our natives cost us in wages, food, recruiting and pass fees £66,150, being 7s. 7'470d. per ton, or 32'303 per cent. of the total working costs.

We are fully alive to the fact that working costs have to be brought down very considerably throughout these fields in order not only to pay higher Dividends, but also to enable the lower-grade mines to be profitably worked. This subject has been the keynote in mining circles for a long time past, and although the above-quoted figures are already fair specimens to show that our endeavours have not been fruitless, we are by no means at the end of our labours.

I do not feel called upon to trespass into the arena of high politics, but this I cannot refrain from saying, that if our critics in Europe, and in particular in the Home Parliament, were to leave us a little more to ourselves, and not meddle with matters about which they understand little or nothing, we should be able to achieve far better results, and very much more rapidly. We have to strive to that one desirable end, and that is to attain the management without interference of our own internal affairs, about which, I contend, we are, after all, the best judges.

I now beg to formally move the adoption of the reports and accounts as submitted.

This was seconded by Mr. E. Friedlander and carried.

DIRECTORATE.—It was proposed by Mr. A. P. Genge, and seconded by Mr. C. A. Billau, that the retiring Directors, Messrs. W. H. Dawe, A. Reyersbach, C. S. Goldmann, R. G. Fricker, A. A. Auret, Francis Drake, J. H. Ryan, and H. C. Boyd, be re-elected. Carried.

AUDITORS.—It was proposed by Mr. F. J. Carpenter, and seconded by Mr. H. Duntton, that the retiring Auditors, Messrs. J. P. O'Reilly and A. Aiken, be reappointed, and that the remuneration for their past services be one hundred guineas each. Carried.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair.

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